

# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

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## Major Expansion Planned for Robotic Program in Brooklyn Schools

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With Grant from Brooklyn Community Foundation



### *More Robots Coming to Brooklyn*

A highly successful robotics program in Brooklyn schools received a major boost this past Thursday when Brooklyn Community Foundation presented a whopping \$500,000 grant to the Polytechnic Institute of New York University — the largest grant the foundation ever made to a university. See the full story by Mary Frost on page 36 of the INBrooklyn section. Shown above (left to right): Brooklyn Community Foundation President Marilyn Gelber, NYU-Poly President Jerry M. Hultin, NYU-Poly Fellow Jennifer Haghpanah and Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women student Theory Cogbill.

Photo courtesy of NYU-Poly

A highly successful robotics program in Brooklyn schools received a major boost this past Thursday when the Brooklyn Community Foundation (BCF) presented a whopping \$500,000 grant to the Polytechnic Institute of New York University (NYU-Poly).

NYU-Poly's popular robotics program has helped improve math and science grades in some of Brooklyn's most challenged schools.

This year 13 winning Brooklyn teams in the program advanced to the citywide finals of the FIRST LEGO League robotics challenge.

Part of NYU-Poly's Central Brooklyn STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Initiative (CBSI), founded in 2007 with the BCF's support, the program pairs the university's

graduate students with teachers in economically disadvantaged schools. Together, they create lessons using robotics to spark students' interest in math and science.

BCF's \$500,000 grant could triple the number of elementary, middle and high schools in the program. More than 80 percent of students served are minorities, and half are females. A recent outside evaluation reported a major increase in participants' grades and an increase in science and math careers.

"The Brooklyn Community Foundation's long and deep commitment to CBSI has encouraged some of Brooklyn's best young, diverse students in STEM studies and set them on a path to pursue higher education and rewarding technical careers," said Jerry M. Hultin, NYU-Poly president.

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