



Carlsbad Educational Foundation
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For Immediate Release
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Carlsbad's Hope Elementary Wins FIRST Lego League Robotics Regional Cup Challenge

Carlsbad Teams Sponsored by Life Technologies Foundation and Carlsbad Educational Foundation Win Honors in Regional Robotics Tournament

Carlsbad, CA – Two Carlsbad school teams took high honors at Sunday's FIRST Lego League robotics competition held at LEGOLAND California. Hope Elementary School's "Team 4 Wheel Drive" took the event's top spot, winning the overall championship based on the highest points earned for their robot's performance, teamwork, and presentation of a research project.

Calavera Hills Elementary School's "Lazer Storm" took second place in the research project category. Both teams were competing for the first time in the regional Cup Challenge and participated against 50 other student teams representing Laguna Beach all the way to Palm Desert.

The FIRST Lego League program is an international science and robotics program designed to engage students, ages 9 to 14, in hands-on, inquiry-based scientific learning and problem-solving. The program, which reinforces one of the Carlsbad Educational Foundation's overarching goals to enrich education through increased hands-on science, is being made possible by a generous grant from the Life Technologies™ Foundation. Ten schools have been sponsored by this grant during the 2009 – 2010 school year.

As part of the *FIRST* LEGO League challenge competition, students were asked to identify a transportation problem and propose a solution. Coached by Kasey Cinciarelli and mentored by Anna Lozar and Mark Rotenberg, Hope Elementary School's "Team 4 Wheel Drive" included students Jared John, Alex Kaplan, Harlyn Fitzgerald, and Noah Knudsen (4th and 5th graders) who decided to research how the bumper height mismatch between LTV's (light trucks, vans, SUV's) and cars results in excessive damage to cars in low speed collisions. Students presented their findings and recommendations as a part of their research project presented before a panel of judges at Sunday's competition.

Another strong showing was posted by Jefferson Elementary School's "Team LRB" who placed 5th overall at the qualifying tournament held for area teams in mid-November. The Jefferson team also won the overall Innovative Robot Design Award for the tournament held in Escondido.

"We are so proud of our local students," said Valin Brown, CEO of the Carlsbad Educational Foundation. "Four Carlsbad-based teams competed this past weekend and all of them did a terrific job. The students, coaches, and parents all put a great deal of time into their projects

and it really shows. The FIRST Lego League program is a great example of how kids can have fun while also learning about science and technology.”

The 2009 FIRST Lego League international challenge was called “Smart Move.” During the project phase, each team identified a problem with the way people, animals, information or things travel in their community and then created an innovative solution. During the robot part of the challenge, each team applied robotics, sensor technology and fresh thinking to confront some of today’s transportation, safety and efficiency problems. The challenge culminates in local, qualifying and state tournaments in which teams present their research projects while their robots compete for a variety of awards.

About the FIRST Lego League Program

Currently in its 11th year, *FIRST* LEGO League anticipates 14,600 teams in more than 50 countries competing in hundreds of qualifying events and championship tournaments. Teams also may have the opportunity to participate in the FIRST LEGO League World Festival, to be held April 15-17, 2010 in Atlanta. *FIRST* founder Dean Kamen, an entrepreneur who invented the Segway transportation system, teamed with Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, first deputy chairman of the board of directors of The LEGO Group, to create the program as a way to engage children in playful and meaningful learning while helping them discover the fun in science and technology. (www.usfirst.org for more information)

About Life Technologies Foundation

The Life Technologies Foundation™ is dedicated to advancing science education and key scientific discoveries that use the application of biology to address societal needs. In particular, the Foundation supports programs that accelerate the use of genomics to further healthcare, projects that advance medical education, and initiatives focused on providing biological solutions to some of society's most pressing challenges. By teaming with educators and researchers, the Foundation also strives to demystify the world of life science and empower today’s children to become tomorrow’s scientific leaders. Launched in 2008, the Life Technologies Foundation has committed approximately \$3 million to causes that advance the understanding and applications of science. The Foundation is a non-profit arm of Life Technologies Corporation, a global biotechnology tools company dedicated to improving the human condition. For more information or to submit a grant proposal, please visit www.lifetechnologies.com/foundation.

About the Carlsbad Educational Foundation

The Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1983 to raise private support for public education and the enrichment of more than 10,000 students in the Carlsbad Unified School District. CEF develops, conducts and finances innovative, quality educational programs and projects. Since its inception, the foundation has contributed more than \$4 million in funds to Carlsbad schools, primarily for science, technology, arts and reading. In 2008, the foundation provided year-end grants totaling \$604,000 to help restore funding for the preservation of the arts, music, sports and libraries within the district. The foundation has just finalized an ambitious strategic plan that will support the development of additional music, science and innovative educational programs. The foundation also operates a Summer Enrichment Program as well as Kids’ Care, a comprehensive before- and after-school childcare program. For more information, visit www.carlsbaded.org