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FOR RELEASE

MCWT-Sponsored Robotics Team Takes on Robofest

DETROIT, May 6, 2010 - A girl's robotics team from University High School in Ferndale, Mich. will participate in the World Robofest 2010 Championship on Saturday, May 8 with a laundry-sorting robot that separates light and dark items into baskets. Robofest brings together middle school, high school and college teams to design, program and build autonomous robots that compete against each other in various categories. The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation supports the UHS team by providing students with a laptop, robot kits and mentoring throughout the process.

"Young women need opportunities to be exposed to the exciting field of technology," said Marcy Klevorn, MCWT president and global director of IT operations for Ford Motor Co. "Robotics competitions are a great way to introduce science as fun and rewarding. The teamwork and collaboration demonstrated throughout the program also is representative of how IT professionals work today."

Throughout the competition, students not only learn the skills necessary for success in technology careers, they realize they are capable of applying science and engineering to create solutions to everyday challenges.

"The initial introduction to computer programming—what it is, how it works and understanding logical sequences—can create the seed of inspiration to pursue technology careers," said Julie Patterson, UHS team coach. "All further education in programming can be related back to this experience."

The UHS team has experienced success at various events leading up to the world championship. They won second place at the Belleville district-level competition and third place at the regional championships with the team's clothes-sorting robot.

"This is my heart," said UHS teammate Sabrina Hancock, summarizing her enthusiasm for robotics. "I love doing this!"

The championship, which is open to the public, will take place at Lawrence Technological University located at 21000 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Southfield, Mich.

"These girls are realizing their potential and what they're good at," Patterson added. "The program has been a success and I've seen firsthand how it has sparked many girls' interest in continuing education in technology."

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology promotes opportunity for women and girls within Michigan's technology community. The organization supports Michigan's female IT workforce, students, corporate partners, schools and the overall community with networking, corporate IT leadership development, mentoring, technology experiences for professionals and students, and funding for technology-oriented education. Its nonprofit foundation is dedicated to correcting the growing trend of gender disparity in the IT field by providing programs that support the education and orientation of young women throughout school and fostering women in various stages of their professional lives. Follow us on [Facebook](#).
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