

WIHS Students Win in Mock JETS and Robotic Competition



Members of West Iredell High School's winning Robotic's team pose with their Mock JETS and Robotic Competition trophies at Mitchell Community College. Shown, first row from left, are Miranda Lewis, Monique Parsons and Alicia Privette. Second row, Jay Hutton, Jeremy Whitehead, Arturo Ramos and Aaron Bailey. Third row, Michael Vestal, Nathan Moore and Almurry Connor.

A team of students from West Iredell High School emerged victorious with a first place finish in the college's inaugural Mock JETS

(Junior Engineering Technology Society) and Robotic Competition held recently at Mitchell Community College.

The 10-member team spent months practicing for the daylong competition that included a written exam and a timed competition between robots built by teams from West Iredell, North Iredell High School and Statesville Senior High School. The West Iredell team was crowned winner after winning a run-off competition between its robot and the one from Statesville Senior High School.

The event, which is designed to promote engineering as a career choice among underrepresented high school student populations, was made possible through an \$80,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. As part of the competition, teams from each of the participating high schools had to build their own robots using a kit purchased with the grant money. During the actual event, each team had to manipulate its robot during a contest against another team's robot to see which robot could put the most ping-pong balls into a basket.

The robotic competition was an opportunity for the students to test their engineering skills, and the day was not without problems for the fledgling engineers. "We had

some problems," said West Iredell junior Alisha Prevette as she and fellow teammate Michael Vestal examined their robot following one round of competition, "but we

won the first round 3 to 0." In March, teams from the three schools will travel to UNC-Charlotte for a regional competition.



Maggie Shoobridge/CITIZEN

JENNIFER BAILEY, left and Caroline Rumburg right, practice with Matt Alkire. The group is a team of "distracters" from Lake Norman High School, who work with the basketball team to distract the opposing team during the game.

"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them."

-Michael Jordan

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