

Games robots play



The robots were out in full force, throwing and catching balls and scoring goals in the 15th Annual Long Island Regional First Robotics Competition at Hofstra University in Hempstead last month. Teams of students from more than 50 high schools in Long Island, New York City, New Jersey and Brazil worked together to build their robots from kits and then controlled the robots in the competition. When it was all over, a group of students from North Massapequa came away with the Regional Chairman's Award – the event's most prestigious – while a team from Sag Harbor took home the Regional Engineering Inspiration Award. These two teams, along with additional winning groups from Malverne, Medford, Huntington and Brazil, will advance to the championship next week in St. Louis.

“All teams demonstrated tremendous teamwork, gracious professionalism, and critical thinking, but these winners went above and beyond to overcome the challenges of the competition,” Joani Madarash, executive director of Kings Park-based School-Business Partnerships of Long Island Inc., said in a statement.

The nonprofit sponsors the Long Island competition, with support from Festo Corp., BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Stony Brook University, Hofstra University, Farmingdale State College, the Estée Lauder Cos., Schneck Trebel Corp. and School Construction Consultants Inc.