



Patchogue-Medford High School's robotics team, in red and black, was named Regional Winner #3 and celebrated their winning alliance with a team from Brazil, wearing yellow.

## schools

### NOTEBOOK

# Advancing in robotics competition

It was showtime for local robotics teams last month as dozens of motorized creations came to life in a competition to be named the region's best.

More than 2,000 students from 50 high schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut gathered at the 15th annual Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition at Hofstra University. FIRST is an acronym drawn from For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Suffolk County groups advancing to the national contest, being held this weekend in St. Louis, and their awards were: Team 28, Whalers of Pierson High School in Sag Harbor, Regional Engineering Inspiration Award and Regional Finalist No. 1; Team 329, Raiders of Patchogue-Medford High School, Delphi Engineering Excellence Award and Regional Winner No. 3; and Team 5016, Devildroid of Huntington High School, Rookie All-Star and Highest Rookie Seed awards.

The competition challenged teams to design, program and build robots over a six-week period using a kit of parts. This year's theme — "Aerial Assist" — called for three-team alliances to craft machines that could shoot balls into goals during a 2½-minute match.

"All teams demonstrated tremendous teamwork, gracious professionalism and critical thinking, but the winners went

above and beyond to overcome the challenges of the competition," said Joani Madarash, executive director of the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, the event's sponsor.

Suffolk County's other winning teams and their awards were: Team 271, Mechanical Marauders of Bay Shore High School, Motorola Quality Award and Regional Finalist No. 3; Team 358, Eagles of Hauppauge High School, Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism Award; Team 533, The Psi-cotics of Lindenhurst High School, General Motors Industrial Design Award; Team 564, Longwood Lions of Longwood High School in Middle Island, Judge's Award; Team 5099, Tigers of Northport High School, Rookie Inspiration Award; and Team 810, Mechanical Bulls of Smithtown Central School District, Xerox Creativity Award.