NOTEBOOK

H.S. robotics teams win award

Teams from Great Neck South and Hicksville high schools took home the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious honor, in this year's regional robotics competitions on Long Island.

The Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition was divided into two separate three-day events last month that attracted 84 teams to Hofstra University. FIRST is an international youth organization that stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

A three-team alliance of Southold Jr./Sr. High School, Westhampton Beach High School and the Wheatley School in Old Westbury was the winner of Regional 1, while a three-team alliance of Bethpage High School, Southold Jr./Sr. High School and Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan was the winner in Regional 2.

Great Neck South's "Rebel Robotics" (Team 2638) and Hicksville's "Hicksville J-Birds" (Team 1468) each received the regionals' Chairman Award, which recognized the team that "best embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST," the organization said.

"All participating teams demonstrated tremendous teamwork, gracious professionalism and critical thinking," said Bertram Dittmar, executive director of the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, which sponsored the event. "The fun and excitement of the competition was evident as many students and mentors got caught up in the spirit of the event."

To participate, teams designed and built robots that weighed up to 120 pounds using a kit of parts that included motors, batteries and control system components. This year's competition had a theme of "Rapid React," which challenged alliances to outscore their opponents by shooting inflatable balls into a central "hub" and then climbing within their respective hangars at the end of the match.

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A team from Great Neck South took home one of the Chairman's Awards, the most prestigious honor, at this year's Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.