



2nd Annual City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship

Workforce development is a priority for Indianapolis. Creating a climate that is attractive for businesses to retain, create, or relocate jobs to our city is dependent on our ability to supply the skilled workforce employers demand. With job growth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) industries in the United States is expected to nearly triple by the year 2018, developing tomorrow's STEM leaders is crucial to our long-term economic stability. Robotics teams are a fun and effective way that schools across the United States have begun to engage students from grades K-12 in learning and applying STEM skills.

On November 16 and 17, the City of Indianapolis will host the *2nd Annual City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship*. The event will be held at Bankers Life Fieldhouse and will expose nearly 100 high school and middle school teams to the excitement of STEM activities through a robotics competition. The inaugural event was a great success with 38 Marion County high school teams participating. This year, participation has increased with 10 additional high school teams and the expansion to 36 middle school teams.

It is my hope that in the next two years every high school and middle school in the city will enter a team in this event, culminating with the crowning of the *City of Indianapolis Robotics Champion*. In the coming weeks, information will be released on how schools can register a team, apply for funding, and receive professional support.

Building top-notch STEM programs that excite and inspire students to pursue career paths vital to our economy will require the support of our citizens, businesses, schools, non-profits and military partners. I encourage you to consider how you and your organization or school can participate in or assist with both the citywide robotics competition and the efforts to further expand STEM activities.

Financial support is currently being sought to fund both this initial event and the ongoing cost of a citywide robotics program. We are working with partners at TechPoint Foundation for Youth, the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation, IndianaFIRST, VEX Robotics, Project Lead The Way, Ivy Tech Community College, and our school district partners to develop a sustainable model to ensure program success for years to come.

I am requesting that you help Indianapolis students gain valuable STEM learning experiences while putting your organization in the spotlight. Please contact Stephanie Bothun (Stephanie.Bothun@indy.gov) for sponsorship opportunities and an overview of the sponsorship levels.

Together, we can inspire more students to pursue STEM careers and create a culture that holds accomplishments in academics equal to those of our great athletes.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor
City of Indianapolis

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