

News Release

For Immediate Release: December 6, 2000

Foothill Robotics Selected for Another Award!

The Foothill High School Robotics Program continues to win recognition across the state and nation. This past summer they took first place in the National FIRST Robotics Competition, in October they were selected to receive the Santa Clara County Glenn Hoffman Award and this week Jeneva Westendorf and Vito Chiala, two of Foothill Robotics teachers, traveled to Southern



California to pick up the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award. Both the Glenn Hoffman and the Golden Bell recognize outstanding educational programs. The Golden Bell Awards Program seeks out and recognizes innovative and exemplary programs that have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators. The award recognizes and supports educators who invest extra energy and time to make a demonstrated difference for students. The Robotics Program was recognized for its science curriculum.

Only in its third year of operation, the Robotics Program has enabled several hundred students to master critical science, mathematics, physics and technological concepts. Students demonstrate knowledge and application of concepts in science, math, technology and engineering through project-based robotics curriculum and benchmark competitions. The program has motivated students to improve their grades and attendance and in some cases given students the confidence to pursue enrollment in a 4-year college.

East Side congratulates the Foothill Robotics teachers—Jeneva Westendorf, Vito Chiala, Jeff Jacobs and Chris Bent who made this program work. Special recognition goes to former Principal, Tim McDonough, for his vision and leadership. Tim initiated and supported this effort when he was the Principal at Foothill and submitted the application to CSBA for consideration.

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