

Local robotics squad to go for world title

Huntington County's robotics has earned the right to compete for a world title after placing second in the Indiana state championships.

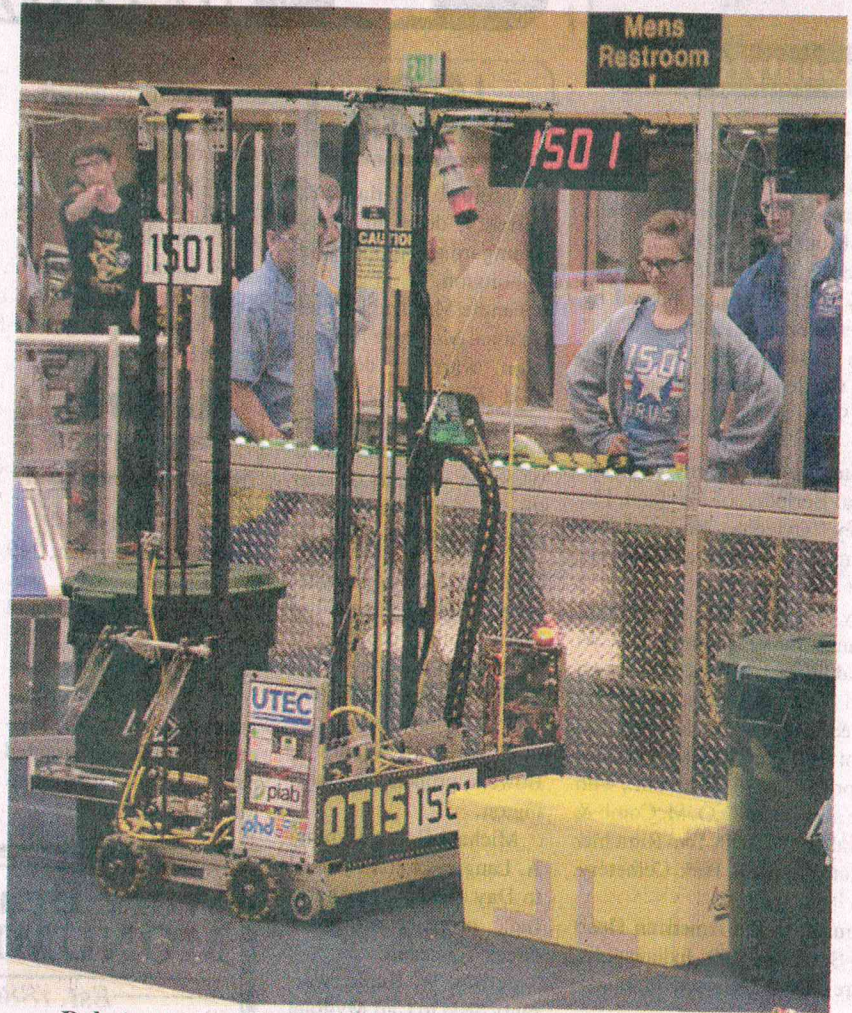
Team THRUST 1501, a Huntington County 4-H special interest club, won the state silver medal during the competition held Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, at Warren Central High School, in Indianapolis.

The team actually qualified for the world championships twice — once on total points in the state competition, and also by winning the state Engineering Inspiration Award, an automatic qualifier for the world championships.

Thirty-two teams from around Indiana competed in the state contest and 10 will advance to the world championships to be held April 22 through 25 in St. Louis, MO. Each team had six weeks to design and build a robot capable of retrieving and stacking recycling containers.

This is the fourth time in its 11 years of existence that Team THRUST has qualified for the world championships and the first time it has won the state Engineering Inspiration Award.

The Engineering Inspiration Award recognizes the business and marketing side of the team and is based on how the team gives back to the community using engineering and technology. Team THRUST qualified to be considered for the state award



Robot operator Martha Kiningham (left, behind glass) and human player Justus Zahm (right) stand at the controls as they wait for competition to begin during the state robotics championship April 3 and 4 in Indianapolis. A second place finish at state will send the local team to the world championships later this month in St. Louis, MO. Photo provided.

by winning the same award at a district competition in Kokomo.

The local team was seeded fourth after 13 qualification rounds at the state competition and formed an alliance with teams from Hammond and Walton for the finals. During its last qualification match, Team

THRUST set the high score in Indiana with a total of 208 points.

Immediately after returning to Huntington, the team held a Pizza Hut buffet fund-raiser on Monday, April 6, to raise funds for the trip to St. Louis.

Additional donations to help cover travel expenses

can be made through PayPal on the team's website, huntingtonrobotics.org.