



Robots from Team #353 the Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School "POBots" (blue) and Team #3137 the Connetquot High School "T-Birds" (red) go head-to-head at the SBPLI Long Island Regional.

SIX LONG ISLAND TEAMS ADVANCED TO **FIRST**[®] ROBOTICS COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ST. LOUIS FOLLOWING THE 2017 SBPLI LONG ISLAND REGIONAL

Six area teams represented Long Island at the **FIRST**[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Championships in St. Louis following the biggest and most intense SBPLI Long Island Regional to date. The 2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional **FIRST** Robotics Competition was held at Hofstra University's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. This year's competition, dubbed **FIRST STEAMWORKS**SM, featured 55 teams from across Long Island, New York and Brazil. The event culminated with awards and honors (see page 2) for areas such as design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high-impact partnerships among schools, businesses and communities.

The winners of the 2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional were "Sachem Aftershock" (Team #263) from Sachem High School and the "Mohawks" (Team #329) from Patchogue-Medford High School, both of which headed to the St. Louis Championship, as well as "Under Control" (Team #1156) from Novo Hamburgo, Brazil, which competed at the Houston Championship. Following the SBPLI Long Island Regional, the "Regal Eagles" (Team #2869) from Bethpage High School took home the coveted Chairman's Award, which is the most prestigious award of the event and recognizes the team that embodies the goals and purpose of **FIRST** and best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and secured them a spot at the 2017 Championships.

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LONG ISLAND REGIONAL

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The other three teams that represented Long Island at the St. Louis Championships this year were 2017 Wild Card Winners and Regional Finalists the “Kingsmen” (Team #5736) from Kings Park High School; 2017 Safety Award and Regional Engineering Inspiration Award winners “Huntington Robotics” (Team #5016) from Huntington High School; and 2017 Rookie All Star Winners the “Mustangs” (Team #6746) from Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset.

Robert Wentzel, Mentor of the Sachem High School Team #263 “Sachem Aftershock,” received the Regional Woodie Flowers Award. Winners of the Dean’s List Finalist Award were Melissa Bruce of Longwood High School Team #564 “Longwood Robotics” and Max Goshin of Plainedge Senior High School Team #527 the “Red Dragons.” The Fred Breithut MVP Award was presented to Christie Franz of Walt Whitman High School Team #2161 “The Robocats.” The winner of the Musical Theme Award, presented by School Construction Consultants, was James Paul Nadien of Plainedge Senior High School Team #527 the “Red Dragons,” which earned his team a \$1,000 grant.

SCHOOL-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS OF LONG ISLAND, INC. AND ITS CONNECTION TO FIRST® LONG ISLAND



SBPLI is a not-for-profit organization that has provided programs linking schools and businesses since 1984. This includes the FIRST Robotics progression of programs, available to students (ages six to 18) who are interested in robotics.

In recognition of SBPLI’s long-established relationship with FIRST Robotics, the organization’s Board of Directors voted last year to adopt the name “FIRST Long Island” for use with its progression of four FIRST programs, which include FIRST® LEGO® League Jr., FIRST® LEGO® League, FIRST® Tech Challenge and FIRST® Robotics Competition.

“When talking to the press, we found that we had to first explain what FIRST Robotics was all about and then we had to explain how that was related to School-Business Partnerships of Long Island,” explains Bertram Dittmar, Executive Director of SBPLI. “With the FIRST Long Island name, our affiliation to FIRST is clearer and less confusing for everyone.”

The Full List of Winners of the 2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition Awards Include:

Award	Team #	Team Name	School/Town
Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen	4006	CIBorgs	Central Islip High School
Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award	871	Robotechs	West Islip Senior High School
Xerox Creativity Award	271	Mechanical Marauders	Bay Shore Senior High School
Delphi Excellence in Engineering Award	3171	HURRICANES	Westhampton Beach Senior High School
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award	1156	Under Control	Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
National Instruments’ Rookie Inspiration Award	6422	GearHeadz	Rocky Point
General Motors Industrial Design Award	1796	RoboTigers	Queens Vocational and Technical High School
Motorola Solutions Foundation Quality Award	3624	ThunderColts	Half Hollow Hills High School
Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism	353	POBots	Plainview-Old Bethpage/JFK High School
FCA Foundation Team Spirit Award	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold Junior-Senior High School
Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award	5016	Huntington Robotics	Huntington High School
Judges’ Award	1554	Oceanside Robotics	Oceanside Senior High School
Highest Rookie Seed	6423	Ward Melville High School	Ward Melville Senior High School
Regional Finalist #1	5736	Kingsmen	Kings Park High School
Regional Finalist #2	3624	ThunderColts	Half Hollow Hills High School
Regional Finalist #3	527	Red Dragons	Plainedge Senior High School
Regional Winner #1	329	Mohawks	Patchogue-Medford High School
Regional Winner #2	1156	Under Control	Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Regional Winner #3	263	Sachem Aftershock	Sachem High School
Rookie All Star Award	6746	Mustangs	Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Syosset
Regional Engineering Inspiration Award	5016	Huntington Robotics	Huntington High School
Wildcard	5736	Kingsmen	Kings Park High School
Regional Chairman’s Award	2869	Regal Eagles	Bethpage Senior High School

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY JOINS SBPLI’S ROSTER OF FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAMS, MARKING THE FIRST-EVER ALL-FEMALE TEAM ON LONG ISLAND



2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition Rookie All Star Winners the “Mustangs” (Team #6746) from Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset.

“SEA LIONS” OF SEAFORD AND “PARTY BOTS 2.0” FROM FLORAL PARK ADVANCE TO *FIRST*[®] WORLD FESTIVAL FOLLOWING THE 2017 SBPLI *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

With a record-breaking number of teams and qualifiers included in the 2017 season, *FIRST* LEGO League is a powerhouse among the STEM programs on Long Island. Following the five qualifiers that were held across two weekends at Mineola and Central Islip High Schools, the SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO League Championship Tournament was once again presented at Longwood High School on Sunday, March 5. The event challenged hundreds of Long Island middle school children to demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community.

FLL Team #92, the “Sea Lions” of Seaford, took home the First-Place Champion’s Award and Team #16282 the “FLORAL PARK – Party Bots 2.0” of Floral Park secured the Second-Place Champion’s Award. Both teams advanced to the *FIRST* World Festival, which was held at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis in April.

In addition to the Sea Lions and Party Bots’ advancements, three other Long Island teams were also presented with the opportunity to advance to various *FIRST* LEGO League events. This included Team #684 “STOBOR” from Syosset, which earned the chance to visit the LEGOLAND[®] North American Open in Carlsbad, California in May; Team #10425, the “Harborfields Library Purple LEGO Eaters” from Centerport, which earned the chance to compete at the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, Arkansas in May; and Team #15794, the “Cyber Dogs” of Roslyn, which earned the chance to participate at the Mountain State Invitational in Fairmont, West Virginia in July.



Members of FLL Team #92 the “Sea Lions” of Seaford accept the Champion’s Award at the SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO League Championship Tournament.

After eight weeks of research and design, nearly 170 Long Island teams competed in one of five Qualifiers for an opportunity to be one of 40 teams to participate in the Championship Tournament at Longwood High School. These Qualifiers, which included upwards of 1,700 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, were held in January at Mineola and Central Islip High Schools.

The 2016-2017 challenge was ANIMAL ALLIESSM, which required the students to identify and solve real-world problems regarding the way that animals and humans interact and how these interactions can be improved. At each *FIRST* LEGO League tournament, students presented their research to a group of judges.

Listed below are the awards that were presented during the SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO League Championships on Sunday, March 5:

Award	Team #	Team Name	Town
Champion’s Award	First Place: 92	Sea Lions	Seaford
	Second Place: 16282	FLORAL PARK – Party Bots 2.0	Floral Park
Robot Performance	First Place: 24093	Tech Heroes	Westbury
	Second Place: 15067	RoboFalcons	Jericho
Research Quality	1087	BRAINSTORMERS	Bayport
Innovative Solution	8085	Rocky Point Radical Robotix	Rocky Point
Mechanical Design	1139	HBT BOTS	Syosset
Programming	27743	The Robosaurus	Stony Brook
Strategy & Innovation	2182	Longwood Middle School Dakers	Middle Island
Inspiration	16314	The Bunker Boys	Oyster Bay
Teamwork/ Alliance	15794	Cyber Dogs	Middle Island
Judges’ Award	16374	Robo Innovators	East Meadow
Gracious Professionalism	1200	Unlimited Thinkers	New Hyde Park

SBPLI APPOINTED AS *FIRST*[®] TECH CHALLENGE AFFILIATE PARTNER



Last summer, SBPLI *FIRST* Long Island was officially appointed as a *FIRST* Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner. *FIRST* Long Island assumed responsibility for managing all aspects of the program in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The inaugural event was the official *FIRST* Tech Challenge

Kick Off at Half Hollow Hills High School East on Saturday, September 10, 2016 which was followed by a practice scrimmage, four *FIRST* Tech Challenge Qualifiers and a Championship.

Started in 2005, *FIRST* Tech Challenge is designed for students in grades seven to 12 to compete in a head-to-head robotics competition, using a sporting tournament model, which falls within the parameters of the annual theme of the Challenge. Over the course of a 10-week build period, teams are asked to design, build and program a robot using a reusable kit of parts and Java or MIT App Inventor software. At the close of the build period, the teams then compete in an alliance format against other alliances of teams – a style dubbed by *FIRST* as “coopertition.”

Like with the other *FIRST* programs, teams are made up of students, coaches and mentors who all work together to develop a strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. In each round of the tournament, awards are given for the competition as well as for community outreach, design and other real-world accomplishments. The ultimate goal of *FIRST* Tech Challenge is to reach more young people at a lower cost, furthering the opportunities for accessible STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education to everyone.

THREE LONG ISLAND TEAMS ADVANCED TO FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE EAST SUPER-REGIONAL FOLLOWING SBPLI LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS



Members of FIRST Tech Challenge Team #4017, the “roboPandas,” from Floral Park pose during an Awards Ceremony that followed the SBPLI Long Island Championship.

Three Long Island teams advanced to the *FIRST* Tech Challenge East Super-Regional in Scranton, Pennsylvania after competing in a series of local tournaments, including the SBPLI Long Island Championship that was held at Smithtown High School West on Saturday, February 11. The event featured 24 teams vying for the opportunity to compete in Pennsylvania, from which they had a chance to advance to the World Championships in St. Louis.

The three *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams that competed for a spot at the World Championships were Team #4017, the “roboPandas” from Floral Park; Team #5477, “Innovo” from Hewlett; and Team #11988, “Crusader Robotics” from Brookville. In addition to being recognized for advancing, each of the teams also received one of eight awards that were presented during a ceremony following the *FIRST* Tech Challenge event, which are outlined on the right.

Throughout the season, the teams, comprised of students age 12 to 18, used their problem-solving skills, creative thinking and sportsmanship to

build and program robots for VELOCITY VORTEXSM, during which two alliances of three teams attempted to score as many points as possible by moving particles into their own center vortex or corner vortex and claiming beacons for their alliance by triggering them to illuminate their alliance color. At the end of the game, the color of the beacon determined the alliance credited for the successful claiming of the beacon.

Emily Heins, of Team #7035, the “Radical Robots” of Bayport, was recognized as a *FIRST* Tech Challenge Dean’s List Finalist. Sponsored by the Kamen family, the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Dean’s List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders who present a passion for attaining *FIRST* ideals and have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for the program. *FIRST* Dean’s List finalists and award recipients are highly recruited by some of the country’s top colleges and universities.

After the conclusion of the event, several teams were presented with a variety of awards, as follows:

Award	Team #	Team Name	Town
Motivate Award	3540	RoboBoogie	Hewlett
Connect Award	7120	Bionica	Hewlett
Rockwell Collins Innovate Award	11988	Crusader Robotics	Brookville
PTC Design Award	5477	Innovo	Hewlett
Think Award	4137	IslandBots	Setauket
Control Award	7407	Team VEGA	Dix Hills
Inspire Award	4017	roboPandas	Floral Park
Judges’ Award	8196	CTRL ALT WIN	Lynbrook
Alliance Award Finalist	5477	Innovo	Hewlett
Alliance Award Finalist	7407	Team VEGA	Dix Hills
Alliance Award Finalist	11649	Portledge Robo Time	Locust Valley
Alliance Award Winner	11988	Crusader Robotics	Brookville
Alliance Award Winner	4017	roboPandas	Floral Park
Alliance Award Winner	6574	Task Main	Lynbrook

FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE JR. TEAM #8994, THE “ROBOWIGGLES” FROM JERICHO, INVITED TO WORLD FESTIVAL EXPO IN ST. LOUIS



Members of FIRST LEGO League Jr. Team #8994, the “RoboWiggles,” from Jericho pose during an Awards Ceremony that followed the Expo at Longwood High School.

For two days, hundreds of students, parents and volunteers convened for learning, technology and fun at the annual *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. Expos, which took place on Saturday, March 4 at Mineola High School and Sunday, March 5 at Longwood High School.

Each year, *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. presents a new and exciting challenge aimed at igniting the creativity of children ages six to 10. For 2016-2017, that theme was “Creature CrazeSM,” which aimed to challenge students to explore the wonders of the animal kingdom. During each of the three expos, students had the opportunity to present a LEGO elements model with motorized parts, along with a “Show Me” poster that represented their findings about the animal kingdom. Whether the children chose to focus on animals indigenous to the jungle or those commonly found in their own backyard, they were tasked with exploring animals and their habitats.

Team #8994, the “RoboWiggles” of Jericho, were invited to participate in the *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. World Festival Expo in St. Louis. There, the team was presented with the “Solid as a Rock” Award.

2017 FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION STEAMWORKS™ UNVEILED DURING SBPLI'S LONG ISLAND REGIONAL KICK-OFF



Forty-eight FIRST Robotics Competition teams waited for the reveal of the FIRST STEAMWORKS™ game.

Hundreds of *FIRST* Long Island students, educators and parents braved the impending snow and wind that threatened Long Island on Saturday, January 7, to attend the SBPLI Long Island Regional Kick-Off event at the Stony Brook University Jacob Javits Lecture Center. During the event, the participating teams also celebrated the unveiling of the 2017 *FIRST* Robotics Competition theme, “STEAMWORKS™,” and picked up their associated kits of robot parts. Described by *FIRST* as a competition that “invites two adventurers’ clubs, in an era where steam power reigns, to prepare their airships for a long-distance race,” *FIRST*

STEAMWORKS is every part the ode to a time gone by. During the competition, two 3-team alliances take to the playing field to complete a variety of tasks in an effort to score points and win the round and eventually advance to eliminations and finals.

As with all *FIRST* Robotics Competitions, *FIRST STEAMWORKS* begins with a 15-second autonomous period, during which robots may only operate on pre-programmed instructions to complete one of three tasks and/or cross the baseline. During the remaining two minutes and 15 seconds, students control the team robots to build steam pressure, start rotors and prepare for flight.

PLAINEDGE HIGH SCHOOL WINS SBPLI'S MUSICAL THEME CONTEST

SBPLI Board Member Will Recce, Principal of School Construction Consultants, Inc., announced that Plainedge High School Robotics Team #527 “The Red Dragons” was the winner of this year’s musical theme contest, presented by School Construction Consultants, Inc. The song was used throughout the 2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional.

James Paul Nadien of Plainedge High School composed the winning theme song. Other teams participating in the contest included Longwood High School, Malverne Senior High School, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School, Westhampton Beach High School and West Islip Senior High School. Students worked with their robotics team mentors and the faculty members of their high school’s music department to compose their song. Members of SBPLI’s Development Council chose the winning entry. The Plainedge High School *FIRST* Robotics team was presented with a \$1,000 check at this year’s event.

“DYNAMIC DUO” JOSEPH AND DOMINIC DALEO RECEIVE 2017 SBPLI FRED BREITHUT SCHOLARSHIP



Joseph Daleo

When it comes to SBPLI’s Annual Fred Breithut Scholarship recipients, 2017 has opted for a double dose. Twin brothers Joseph and Dominic Daleo, who will be entering Farmingdale State College for the Fall 2017 semester, were recognized as the 2017 awardees. Recent graduates of West Islip High School, the brothers were each highly active members of the school’s *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team, #871 the “Robotechs,” for three years. It was their involvement with the program that led the pair to Farmingdale

State College and the decision to pursue degrees in Electrical Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering, respectively.

Though both brothers were very involved in the program, each took on separate roles among their teammates. For Joseph, the path was clear – community service, such as the team’s Adopt-a-Highway sponsorship and regular participation in cleanup initiatives throughout West Islip. This included organizing a maintenance crew to clean the grounds and manage/recycle the garbage during the West Islip Country Fair, which takes place each September. In his personal time, Joseph is also a junior firefighter for the West Islip Fire Department, works with an organization to provide meals to those in need and performs in a band that entertains at a local senior center. The letter of reference that accompanied his application cites Joseph as a true example of “gracious professionalism,” the motto by which all *FIRST* students must abide.

In recognition of his valuable leadership and steadfast dedication to the team, Dominic was appointed as Captain. Owing to his interest in Mechanical Engineering, it should come as no surprise that Dominic particularly enjoyed teaching his fellow teammates to use the machines – such as a lathe and a mill – necessary to build each season’s robot. Like his brother, Dominic also relishes the sense of pride that comes from helping others. In his free time, Dominic has been working toward earning a black belt in Ninjitsu and is a sailing instructor.



Dominic Daleo

The Fred Breithut Scholarship was established in partnership with Farmingdale State College in 2009, an honor which was bestowed upon Mr. Breithut in recognition of the value he placed on education and the opportunities he provided to students across Long Island. Mr. Breithut, who taught history and held administrative positions with several school districts on Long Island, was the Founder and President of SBPLI for 26 years until his untimely passing in 2010.

The \$1,000-per-semester scholarship is made available annually to a recent high school graduate or transfer student meeting the stringent requirements, including having been a member of a *FIRST* Robotics team for at least two years. With further qualifying conditions, it may be awarded for a maximum of four years. Everyone at SBPLI is thrilled to award the 2017 scholarship to two individuals who are equally deserving and, for the first time in the history of this scholarship, happen to be twins!

JOANI MADARASH HONORED AS SBPLI'S 2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Joani Madarash

Longtime Board Member and former Executive Director Joani Madarash was presented with the organization's 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award during Day 1 of the SBPLI Long Island Regional at Hofstra University on Friday, March 31. Presently part of SBPLI's Executive Management Team, Ms. Madarash joined the organization in 1992 as an Advisory Board member. In 1998, along with others at the Annual SBPLI Board meeting, she was witness to the passion and magnetism of Dean Kamen, Founder of *FIRST*, which took SBPLI into a new and long-lasting direction.

Since that time, Ms. Madarash has served as a member of SBPLI's *FIRST* Robotics Competition Development Council, which, each year, is tasked with organizing the program's associated events. This includes, among other things, the Long Island Kick-Off at Stony Brook University and the SBPLI Long Island Regional at Hofstra University.

In 2002, Ms. Madarash was invited to join the SBPLI Board of Directors and served as the organization's Vice President of Event Coordination (2007-2010), President (2011-2012), Executive Director (2012-2014) and Interim Executive Director (2014-2016). Ms. Madarash was instrumental as a founding committee member in the creation of the Fred Breithut Scholarship at Farmingdale State College in 2009.

John Loonam summed it up in his remarks upon introducing her for this honor, "Joani has been our organization's Heart and Soul. ... If something needs to get done, Ms. Madarash will find a way to get it done. She never passes the buck! Ms. Madarash is the person who will do it herself rather than letting it FAIL. She always SUCCEEDS!"

SBPLI TEED UP FOR SEVENTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING PRESENTED BY SCOPE EDUCATION SERVICES

Members and supporters of SBPLI got into the swing of things at the Seventh Annual SBPLI Golf Outing, presented by SCOPE Education Services. This year's event, which benefits the *FIRST* Long Island robotics programs, was held at Nissequogue Golf Club in St. James on Monday, June 26. Dr. Lorraine Greenwald, Dean of International Education and Programs at Farmingdale State College and longtime SBPLI volunteer, was honored at the event.

Dr. Greenwald's dedication to SBPLI began in 2004, when she was invited to serve as a judge for the SBPLI Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition, which takes place each spring at Hofstra University. After finding herself immediately awed by the incredible energy and enthusiasm of the students, mentors and volunteers, Dr. Greenwald was hooked and opted to even volunteer to judge at the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championships. In 2007, she signed on as Judge Advisor for the SBPLI Long Island Regional in 2003 and has assumed that role ever since. Dr. Greenwald is also instrumental in coordinating the annual Fred Breithut Scholarship, which is presented to an incoming Farmingdale State College student each year.

In her dual roles as Dean of International Education and Programs and Senior International Officer at Farmingdale State College, Dr. Greenwald is tasked with the internationalization of the campus and with creating a globally competent student body that understands the interconnectedness of technology, applied science, business, culture

and society on an international scale. Over the past few years, Dr. Greenwald has been forging long-term partnerships with educational institutions, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in South America, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean in an effort to support, negotiate and manage a variety of international programs.

In recognition of her work, Dr. Greenwald was presented with the William H. Fulbright International Administrators Award in 2015, which afforded her the opportunity to travel to France to develop bilateral programs of educational exchange between France and the United States. Throughout her nearly 20-year tenure at Farmingdale State College, Dr. Greenwald has served as Dean of the School of Business, as Chair of the Computer Systems Department and as Professor of Computer Programming and Information Systems. In addition to her role in SBPLI's *FIRST* Robotics Competition Development Council, Dr. Greenwald is also a member of AIEA-Association of International Education Administrators.



Dr. Lorraine Greenwald

JANET ANDERSON NAMED SBPLI'S 2017 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

SBPLI is delighted to honor Janet Anderson as the recipient of the organization's 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award. This tribute was bestowed upon Ms. Anderson during a surprise presentation at the VIP Reception and Recognition Dinner on March 31, following the first day of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition held at Hofstra University.

Longtime friend and SBPLI colleague Joani Madarash introduced Ms. Anderson at the ceremony, indicating that "Janet Anderson best represents and personifies the essence of leadership, teamwork and gracious professionalism," and continued to say that "she is a person of vision, integrity, knowledge and wisdom, and demonstrates a relentless passion for our programs." She later added that "Janet consistently 'gives of herself' to the organization and never seeks credit or glory."

This prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to those with an established history of distinguished service to the organization. The recipient is recognized for making a lasting contribution to SBPLI's programs and the students of Long Island and consistently exhibits leadership and inspiration to others so they can carry on the mission.

Ms. Anderson is relentless in her dedication to SBPLI and *FIRST* Long Island, motivates all volunteers to reach higher and wider, and always

goes above and beyond what is required and expected. For more than 20 years, Ms. Anderson has tirelessly contributed her time, knowledge and resources to the betterment of SBPLI and *FIRST* Long Island. A current member of SBPLI's Executive Management Team, she previously served on SBPLI's Board of Directors for many years. Following the untimely passing of SBPLI Founder Fred Breithut, she served as the organization's Interim President for more than a year.

Throughout her time with SBPLI, Ms. Anderson has founded and/or held leadership positions for all four of the organization's *FIRST* Robotics programs. In 2004, she was appointed as Director of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (through 2009) and simultaneously introduced the *FIRST* LEGO League program to Long Island, for which she has served as Director since that time. She brought *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. to Long Island in 2009 and, most recently, established SBPLI as the official affiliate partner for *FIRST* Tech Challenge (see full story on page 3), completing the progression of the *FIRST* programs offered by SBPLI.

Clearly, Janet Anderson is well-deserving of this award as she is an exemplary individual who best characterizes the heart and soul of School-Business Partnerships of Long Island and the *FIRST* Long Island programs.

DEBRA WINTER, A PILLAR TO SBPLI AND FIRST® LONG ISLAND, STEPS DOWN FROM HER ROLE TO FULFILL HER DREAM

Following the conclusion of the 2016-2017 season, volunteers across all levels of SBPLI FIRST Long Island bid farewell to Debra Winter, Co-Director of SBPLI's FIRST Robotics Competition, who stepped down from her position in order to focus attention on her duties (and fulfill a lifelong dream) as the newly appointed Superintendent of Springs School District.

Ms. Winter has devoted 16 years of her professional and personal life not only to promoting the values of FIRST Robotics, but to an all-encompassing involvement in the programs. As the former Assistant

Superintendent for Longwood School District, Debra's connection to FIRST Robotics began at the FIRST LEGO League and FIRST LEGO Jr. level, for which she provided Longwood's facilities for the programs' tournaments and expos. Though she is stepping down from her role, Ms. Winter vows that she "will never stop promoting the benefits that SBPLI and FIRST provide to the students of Long Island."

"On behalf of everyone at SBPLI, we will miss your daily presence as a wonderful and dedicated member to the organization and wish you the very best in your new challenge as Superintendent of Springs School District," says Bertram Dittmar, Executive Director of SBPLI.



Debra Winter

HALF HOLLOW HILLS INVITATIONAL CONTINUES TO BE A VALUABLE PART OF FIRST® ROBOTICS ON LONG ISLAND



Robots from FIRST Robotics Teams #870 and #6423 score points by launching "boulders" at the opposing alliance's castle tower.

Now in its fifth year, the FIRST Long Island Half Hollow Hills Invitational has become a staple of the local FIRST Robotics Competition season. The event, which was held with support from SBPLI on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at Half Hollow Hills High School West in Dix Hills, is a way for teams to face off using the previous season's robots one final time before launching into the next build season.

Twenty-four teams competed using the robots they built for the 2016 Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, held in March 2016, the challenge for which was dubbed was FIRST StrongHold™. During that season, and at the Invitational, robots battled on a 27-foot-by-54-foot playing field on which participants earned points by accomplishing set tasks. Some of the goals included traversing obstacles, throwing "boulders" into various openings of the castle and climbing the tower – which resulted in extra points.

The winning trio/alliance comprised of Patchogue-Medford High School Team #329 "Mohawks," West Islip High School Team #871 "Robotechs" and Team #2875 "CyberHawks" of Cold Spring Harbor. The finalists were Plainview-Old Bethpage High School Team #353 "POBots," Plainedge High School Team #527 "Red Dragons" and Wheatley School Team #2872 "CyberCats."

The invitational is designed to showcase the benefits of robotics programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education to students, schools, communities and local businesses. As testing results and college entrances are now considered a measure of a school's success, the implementation of STEM-focused curricula has become increasingly important to developing the careers of students, who can relate the skills learned from FIRST Robotics to positions in the medical, business and other professional industries.

GERSHOW RECYCLING DONATES NEARLY ONE TON OF ALUMINUM SCRAP TO 15 LOCAL FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAMS



Tony Kryl (far right) of the Westhampton Beach High School FIRST Robotics Team (#3171), presents Jonathan Abrams (center) and CJ Linsalata (left) of Gershow Recycling with a team sponsor plaque during the Scrap Metal Day event.

For the past eight years, Gershow Recycling has opened its Medford facility to local FIRST Long Island robotics teams, including coaches, students and their parents, to enable the teams to collect aluminum scrap metal necessary to build the season's robots. On December 3, 2016, fifteen teams participated in Gershow's Scrap Metal Day donation event, including Bridgehampton High School (#5659), Central Islip High School (#4006), Center Moriches High School (#4458) Half Hollow Hills High School (#3624), Hauppauge High School (#358), Huntington High School (#5016), Kings Park High School (#5736), Longwood High School (#564), Miller Place High School (#514), North Shore High School (#3950), Plainview-Old Bethpage High School (#353), Townsend Harris High School (#2601) and Westhampton Beach High School (#3171). Two rookie teams, Our Lady of Mercy and Rocky Point/Shoreham, also attended the event, under the guidance of veteran team representatives.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL 2017 FIRST® LONG ISLAND SPONSORS

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PO Box 101
Kings Park, New York 11754

ABOUT SBPLI

School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI) was founded in 1984 by Fred Breithut with the goal of developing partnerships between local high schools and businesses that would provide students with practical experience and curriculum development, while helping the business community develop its future workforce. Over 100 partnerships have been formed. In 1999, SBPLI brought the *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition to Long Island, in which eight high school teams participated. Since then, the Long Island Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition has grown to over 50 teams competing each year. SBPLI also hosts Long Island's annual *FIRST*® Tech Challenge, as well as *FIRST*® LEGO® League Qualifying and Championship Tournaments and the *FIRST*® LEGO® League Junior Expos, in which almost 2,000 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties take part each year. For more information, visit www.sbpli.org.

2017-2018 SEASON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***FIRST* Info Night**
Plainview/Old Bethpage Library
July 18, 2017

***FIRST* LEGO League
Training**
October 2017

***FIRST* LEGO League
Practice Tournaments**
December 2017

***FIRST* LEGO League Jr.
Training**
December 2017

***FIRST* Robotics
Competition 2018 Kick-Off**
Stony Brook University
January 2018

***FIRST* Tech Challenge
Qualifiers**
Syosset High School
Center Moriches High School
Lynbrook High School
January 2018

Please check our Website for
exact dates of events

***FIRST* LEGO League
Qualifiers**
Mineola High School
Central Islip High School
January/February 2018

***FIRST* LEGO League
Championship**
Longwood High School
March 2018

***FIRST* LEGO League
Junior Expos**
Longwood High School
Mineola High School
March 2018

***FIRST* Tech Challenge
Championship**
Smithtown High School
March 2018

**19th Annual SBPLI Long
Island Regional *FIRST*
Robotics Competition**
Hofstra University
April 2018

PO Box 101, Kings Park, New York 11754 • (631) 627-8400

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SBPLI.ORG

