

Three Long Island Teams Advance to FIRST Tech Challenge World Championships

Three Long Island teams are advancing to the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in Detroit, MI, after competing in a series of local tournaments, including the Long Island Championship that was held at Syosset High School on Saturday, March 9. Presented by School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI), the SBPLI Long Island Championship featured 24 teams vying for the opportunity to compete for a chance to advance to the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in Detroit on April 24-27.

The three FIRST Tech Challenge teams that received a spot at the World Championship were Team #10738 "Stony Brook Bears" from Stony Brook School; Team #6438 "Syndicate" from Syosset High School; and Team #11517 "Digital Darlings" from Girl Scouts of Nassau County in Garden City. In addition to being recognized for advancing, each of the teams also received numerous awards that were presented during a ceremony following the FIRST Tech Challenge event, which are outlined below.

Additionally, three students were named FIRST Tech Challenge Dean's List Finalists during the awards ceremony: Cameron Best of Team #13847 "At Least It Didn't Explode" from Harborfields High School in Greenlawn; Andreas Kaímís of Team #12387 "Dagas" from Half Hollow Hills High School in Huntington Station; and Gabriel Wong of Team #4017 "Robopandas" of Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park. 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 to some of the country's top colleges and universities. As finalists, they will have the opportunity to become one of 10 students to receive the award, which will be presented at the World Championship in April.

Victoria Mercouri of Team #7035 "Radical Robots" of the Girl Scouts of



Suffolk County in Bayport received the Compass Award. This award is given to an adult coach or mentor who has provided outstanding guidance and support for a team throughout the year and demonstrates to the team what it means to be a Gracious Professional.

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 FIRST Rover Ruckus (presented by Qualcomm), during which two alliances of three teams attempted to score as many points as possible by having the team's robot descend from the Lander, collect Minerals from the Crater, sort and score Minerals into the Cargo Hold of the Lander, perform autonomous tasks and navigate to specific parts of the Playing Field.

—Anton Media Group

Members of Team #11517 "Digital Darlings" of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County in Garden City program their robot during one of the playoff matches at the FIRST Tech Challenge Long Island Championship at Syosset High School on March 9. "Digital Darlings" was one of three teams that were chosen to advance to next month's FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in Detroit, MI.

Eight New York Universities Among Best Online MBA Programs

A new study shows eight New York universities made the list of the best online MBA programs in 2019. SUNY—Oswego was ranked No. 39, Marist College was ranked No. 61, Clarkson University was ranked No. 92, Rochester Institute of Technology was ranked No. 93, Syracuse University was ranked No. 102, SUNY Polytechnic Institute was ranked No. 107, St. Bonaventure University was ranked No. 129, and Utica College was ranked No. 160.

While traditional MBA

enrollment is down across the board, online MBA programs are seeing record numbers of people enroll due to lower tuition costs and the ability to study from anywhere.

In fact, the U.S. News and World Report 2019 list of online MBA programs includes 301 schools, up from just 170 in 2017.

BusinessStudent.com analyzed all programs and today released a study on the 202 Best Online MBA Programs in 2019.

Programs without accreditations (AACSB or ACBSP) were not

included. The rankings were determined by analyzing five criteria: tuition, accreditation, acceptance rate, student support and engagement.

As part of the study, more than 100 former online MBA students were surveyed and 83 percent ranked tuition price as their number one consideration when choosing a program.

Based solely on tuition, BusinessStudent.com also ranked the 25 highest priced online MBA programs and the 25 most affordable programs.