



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CENTRAL ARKANSAS STUDENTS AND THEIR ROBOTS TRANSFORM TRANSPORTATION
IN THE *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] LEAGUE “SMART MOVE” CHALLENGE**

*300 students, spectators, and volunteers attend the
Mid-America Science Museum’s
5th Annual FIRST LEGO[®] League Competition*

Hot Springs, AR (January 25, 2010) – The Mid-America Science Museum was the setting Saturday, January 23rd for 12 *FIRST* LEGO[®] League (FLL) and Junior *FIRST* LEGO[®] League (JFLL) teams to showcase their SMART MOVE Challenge robots and research projects at the Museum’s 5th Annual FLL Tournament.

The “LISA Jaguars” of the LISA Academy won the single elimination tournament. The “Robo Rockets” from the Hots Springs School District took 2nd place and a home school team, the “Rock City Robots”, won 3rd place. The Arkansas State Tournament Champion’s Award team from Hot Springs, “We Like To Move It”, demonstrated their robot and award-winning research presentation. The Grace Academy “Gear Grinders” also performed their research presentation skit. “We Like To Move It” will be representing Arkansas at the *FIRST* LEGO League World Festival, to be held in conjunction with the *FIRST* Championship, April 15-17, 2010 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people’s interest and participation in science and technology, This year’s Challenge calls for teams of 9 to 14 year-old children to research and present their own creative applications of solutions to improve people’s lives.

Using LEGO MINDSTORMS[®] bricks, motors, gears and software, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build, and program robots to solve real-world challenges. After eight intense weeks, the competition season culminates at high energy sports-like tournaments.

With an age-appropriate Challenge based on the same theme as FLL, the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League (Jr.FLL) program introduces 6 to 9 year-olds to the wonders of science and technology as they build models and create a poster depicting their research journey.

The tournament was presented by the Mid-America Science Museum in partnership with Grace Academy, Hot Springs School District, and the Science and Technology Group, Inc. of Mountain Home, AR and sponsored by a Robotics Grant from the Elisabeth Wagner Foundation.