



## Colorado Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement

*A Program of the Colorado Minority Engineering Association*

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### **Colorado MESA Hosts Northern Colorado Intel First Tech Challenge Robotics Scrimmage** **February 20, 2010**

*First Tech Challenge Occurs During National Engineers Week,  
Emphasizes Dire Need for Math & Science Education*

DENVER, CO; February 11, 2010 – Colorado MESA and Colorado FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics (FTC) host the 2010 Northern Colorado Intel FTC Robotics Scrimmage at Fossil Ridge High School, located at 5400 Ziegler Rd in Fort Collins on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Scrimmage is free and open to the public. FIRST Tech Challenge is an affordable and highly innovative Robotics program that creates opportunities for students through hands-on application in math, science and technology. Junior and Senior High School aged students will field fully functioning FTC robots in an exciting scrimmage to prepare them for the Colorado State Tournament to be held in March.

There is a significant need for programs like FTC Robotics to counteract the dismal and alarming state of US students pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. According to the National Engineers Week Foundation, there is a very high attrition rate for students in engineering college programs, with 40% choosing not to continue in engineering after their freshman year. The National Academies 2007 Special Report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" states that fewer than one-third of US 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students performed at or above proficiency in mathematics. The report also noted that US 12<sup>th</sup> graders performed below 21 countries on a test of general math and science knowledge.

Programs like the FTC Robotics Scrimmage serve to motivate, challenge and open scholarship opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. FTC Robotics will be on display, and attendees can walk through the team pits to get a close up look at the kid's designs, gather information about FTC and enjoy the comfort of the auditorium while watching the robots challenge each other in the competition arena.

## **About Colorado MESA**

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) is a thirty year organization serving underrepresented students to enable them to pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. Colorado MESA is an after-school math and science mentoring program that results in 90% of MESA seniors going to college and 70% choosing to major in a math-based field. Today, Colorado MESA has over 3,600 participating students from 160 schools throughout the state. As part of a national network of MESA organizations, Colorado MESA is hosting the national MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition for the second consecutive year, June 25-27, 2010. To get involved and learn more about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities visit [www.cmesa.org](http://www.cmesa.org) or 303-556-8568.

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Sources:

Nat'l Engineers Week 40% College Freshman Engineering Attrition:

<http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Features/dshirley.shtml>

Rising Above the Gathering Storm Report:

<http://www.compadre.org/PTEC/document/ServeFile.cfm?ID=4958&DocID=237>