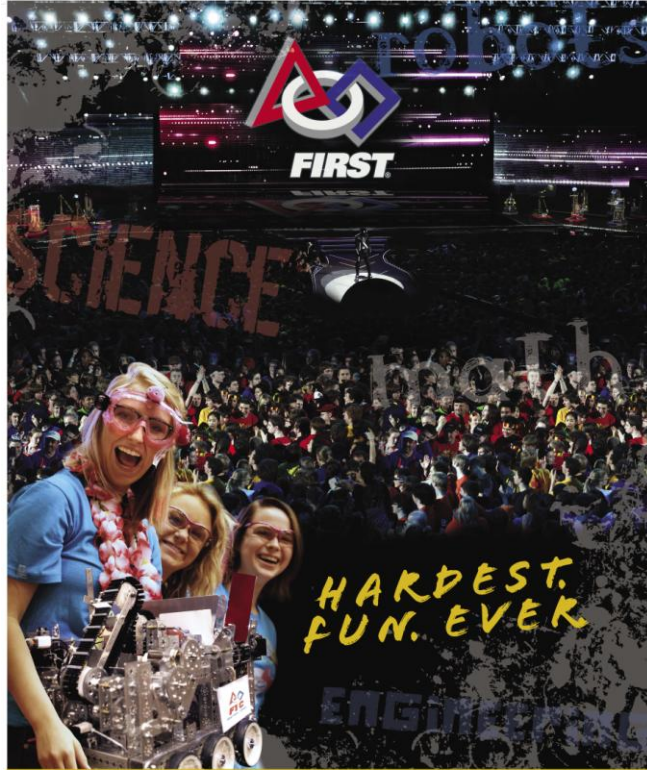




For Immediate Release:  
Contact: Dee Frewert  
775-450-2615



February 25, 2012 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Northern Nevada FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Championship  
Carson High School, 1111 Saliman, Carson City, Nevada Gymnasium

All FIRST events are FREE and open to the public!

WWW.USFIRST.ORG



### Space Science for Schools and CGI, Inc. Brings High School Robotics to Northern Nevada

Carson City, Nevada: Space Science for Schools (SS4S) is the regional partner that brought FIRST LEGO League to K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2011. Now it brings robot game competition to high school age students in Northern Nevada. Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. The *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge (FTC<sup>®</sup>) is a robotics competition that provides high-school-aged students with a challenging, technology-rich, exciting program that inspires them to get into science, technology, and engineering.

Hosted by Carson High School, on Saturday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, teams from Reno, Sparks, Virginia City, Yerington, and out of region teams from San Diego, Las Vegas, Utah and Northern California will compete head to head in a robotics challenge.

"Our main sponsor, CGI, Inc., makes precision automation and robotics components. They've been terrific partners in encouraging team growth, providing mentors, and promoting the hard work of our regional teams", remarks Dee Frewert, SS4S event director. President of the Society of Women Engineers, Seena

Drapala, who heads the technical judging team says, “The FTC is a great way to conclude Engineering Week and celebrate the success of these students”.

This season’s “Bowled Over Challenge”, pushes the envelope of design as teams use every mechanical advantage to lift, roll, and stack balls to score points. The fast paced matches made up of autonomous and teleop play elevates teams to their A game where they combine strategy, precision and driver skill. The alliance game format encourages teams to recognize the strengths of their partners to cooperate in accumulating scores that puts them in contention for a coveted seat at the World Festival held at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo., also known as the **Superbowl of Smarts**.

Teams of up to ten students, work alongside mentors, applying real-world math and science concepts to solve the annual challenge. They compete and cooperate in team alliances at high-energy regional tournaments that reward the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students. Through their *FIRST* involvement, students discover the rewarding and engaging process of innovation and engineering.

With other event supporters from GE Energy and Les Schwab and program support from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Newmont Mining and *FIRST*, Space Science for Schools has brought a full season of hands-on workshops, webinars, teacher education, and scrimmages to help develop robotics firmly in Northern Nevada. “We create opportunities for students to excel in STEM,” says Dee Frewert, highlighting Space Science for school’s mission. Now that the organizers have brought the robotics program here, they need community members, schools and businesses to join them in sustaining it, beginning with supporting the hardworking teams at the first championship event.

**Date:** February 25, 2012, 10a-5p Opening ceremony 10:30a

**Address:** Carson High School Gymnasium, 1111 Saliman, Carson City, Nevada

**Fee:** FREE and open to the public

**Who should attend:** Robot and technology enthusiasts from high school and middle school, community members of all ages

**For more information:** [www.firstnv.org](http://www.firstnv.org), [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

**For information or to donate:** [deefrewert@gmail.com](mailto:deefrewert@gmail.com)

During the 2011-2012 season, an estimated 2,000 FIRST Tech Challenge teams will compete in events in the U.S., Canada, India, Mexico and the Netherlands, culminating at the FIRST Championship at the World Festival.

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#### *Northern Nevada Teams*

- Sparks High School*
- Spanish Springs High School*
- Carson High School*
- Silver State Charter High School*
- Coral Academy of Sciences*
- Virginia City High School*
- Yerington 4-H*