



Office of Communication
3901 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
(615) 269-1786 ◊ (800) 333-4358
Fax: (615) 269-1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.279.7078

janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Tom Brooker
Gallatin News Examiner

Robots are the rage as hundreds of students bring their mechanical creations to compete Oct. 27 in Allen Arena

NASHVILLE (Oct. 8, 2007) – Ten groups of Middle Tennessee high schoolers will be headed to Mars on **Saturday, Oct. 27**, and they are inviting local kids to climb aboard and go along with them by attending the second annual **Music City BEST Robotics Competition**, held in **Allen Arena** on the Lipscomb University campus in Green Hills.

This year's theme at Music City BEST is "2021: A Robot Odyssey." Based on the theme, 10 teams of middle- and high-schoolers will maneuver their remote controlled robots to transport "supplies" for a new Martian colony from the "Automated Supply Vehicles" to the new base.

The student-built robots will begin rolling with their cargo of bottles and cans at **10 a.m.** and continue to around 3 p.m., with a lunch break at 12:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Schools expected to participate this year are:

- David Lipscomb Campus School, Nashville;
- Lewis County High School, Hohenwald;
- McFadden Middle School, Murfreesboro;
- Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet;
- Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge;
- Ravenwood High School, Brentwood;
- West End Middle School, Nashville;
- Rooster Robotics Institute home school, Lewisburg;
- Jennifer Almon's home school, Bellevue; and

- Upton home school, Watertown.

Sponsored by Lipscomb's Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering, Music City BEST challenges middle and high school students to build their own robots to complete a designated task, using specific materials supplied to them six weeks before the competition – such as plywood, PVC pipe, duct tape, bicycle inner tubes, Velcro and various polymer machine components.

The robot that earns the most points by moving the most “supplies” to the Martian base wins the overall competition, but the robots can also be awarded honors such as Most Photogenic, Most Robust, Most Elegant, the BEST Award, and the Blood, Guts and Duct Tape Award for the team with few points, but lots of guts and spirit.

BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) is a 15-year-old, nationwide program involving more than 600 schools, representing 11,000 students. The top two teams in the Music City competition will proceed to the South's BEST competition in Auburn, Ala., in December, when more than 40 teams duke it out for top honors in the region.



Office of Communication
3901 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
(615) 269-1786 ◊ (800) 333-4358
Fax: (615) 269-1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.279.7078

janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Assignment Desk
WKRN News – Channel 2

Robots are all the rage as hundreds of students bring their mechanical creations to compete Saturday in Allen Arena

NASHVILLE (Oct. 24, 2007) – Ten groups of Middle Tennessee students will be headed to Mars on **Saturday** at the second annual **Music City BEST Robotics Competition**, held in **Allen Arena** on the Lipscomb University campus in Green Hills.

This year’s theme at Music City BEST is “2021: A Robot Odyssey.” Middle- and high-school teams will compete by maneuvering their remote controlled robots to transport “supplies” for a new Martian colony from the “Automated Supply Vehicles” to the new base.

The student-built robots will begin rolling with their cargo of bottles and cans at **10 a.m.** and continue to around 3 p.m., with a lunch break at 12:30 p.m. Several hundred students are expected to attend Music City BEST and the public is invited to watch the competition as well. Last year’s competition boasted cheerleaders, school mascots, a pep band and a Storm Trooper all cheering the robots on.

Teams are expected to present booths decorated with a robotics theme to round out this hands-on engineering competition designed to get students and teachers excited about math and science education.

Schools expected to participate this year are:

- David Lipscomb Campus School, Nashville;
- Lewis County High School, Hohenwald;
- MaFadden Middle School, Murfreesboro;
- Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet;

- Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge;
- Ravenwood High School, Brentwood;
- West End Middle School, Nashville;
- Rooster Robotics Institute home school, Lewisburg;
- Jennifer Almon's home school, Bellevue; and
- Upton home school, Watertown.

Sponsored by Lipscomb's Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering, Music City BEST challenges middle and high school students to build their own robots to complete a designated task, using specific materials supplied to them six weeks before the competition – such as plywood, PVC pipe, duct tape, bicycle inner tubes, Velcro and various polymer machine components.

The robot that earns the most points by moving the most “supplies” to the Martian base wins the overall competition, but the robots can also be awarded honors such as Most Photogenic, Most Robust, Most Elegant, the BEST Award, and the Blood, Guts and Duct Tape Award for the team with few points, but lots of guts and spirit.

BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) is a 15-year-old, nationwide program involving more than 600 schools, representing 11,000 students. The top two teams in the Music City competition will proceed to the South's BEST competition in Auburn, Ala., in December, when more than 40 teams duke it out for top honors in the region.



Office of Communication
3901 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
(615) 269-1786 ◊ (800) 333-4358
Fax: (615) 269-1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.279.7078

janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Education Writer
The Knoxville Journal

Oak Ridge High students participate in contest to build robot designed for transport of supplies to “Martian colony”

NASHVILLE (Oct. 9, 2007) – Students from Oak Ridge High School are expected to participate in an annual robot-building engineering competition held at Lipscomb University in Nashville on **Saturday, Oct. 27**.

The public is invited to Lipscomb’s **Allen Arena** in Green Hills to watch 10 Middle Tennessee teams, including the Oak Ridge team, compete in the **Music City BEST Robotics Competition**, sponsored by Lipscomb’s Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering.

Don Belcher, (865.425.9600) engineering and manufacturing technology teacher at the high school, will once again lead the students through the challenging project. Last year, due to a last-minute redesign, the team spent most of the competition in the pits, working to get their remote-controlled arm working properly.

The 23 participating students in the engineering processes class last year did, however, bring along an exciting display booth and were awarded for the Best Mascot, the school’s wildcat.

Belcher expected last year’s experience to teach students the commitment involved in the project and inspire them on to greater achievements in this year’s Music City BEST.

This year’s theme is “2021: A Robot Odyssey.” Based on the theme, remote controlled robots will compete to transport “supplies” for a new Martian colony from the “Automated Supply Vehicles” to the new base. The robots begin rolling with their cargo

of bottles and cans at **10 a.m.** and continue to around 3 p.m., with a lunch break at 12:30 p.m. This event is **free** and open to the public.

The BEST program (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) is a 15-year-old, nationwide program involving more than 600 schools, representing 11,000 students. The hands-on engineering program challenges students to build a robot using specific materials -- such as plywood, PVC pipe, duct tape, bicycle inner tubes, Velcro and various polymer machine components -- supplied to them six weeks before the competition.

“It’s not really about robotics, even though the kids think it is,” said George Blanks, vice president of the BEST board of directors and director of K-12 outreach for Auburn University, a long-time BEST sponsor. “Really they learn about problem-solving, teamwork, leadership and consensus development. It’s teaching kids not just the engineering process, but how to solve a problem.”

“We decided to bring the BEST competition to Tennessee because it’s a program that not only teaches students skills they can use for a lifetime, but it does it in a fun, interactive way,” said Ben Hutchinson, dean of Lipscomb’s College of Natural and Applied Sciences, which includes the school of engineering.

“The program is unusual among student engineering programs because it actually requires the students themselves to design and build the robots, and it involves students in a variety of ways from designing the robots to organizing a pep rally before the competition,” Hutchinson said. “It is also free to the schools, which allows many schools to participate who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity.”

Other schools expected to participate this year are: David Lipscomb Campus School, Nashville; Lewis County High School, Hohenwald; McFadden Middle School, Murfreesboro; Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge; Ravenwood High School, Brentwood; West End Middle School, Nashville; Rooster Robotics Institute home school, Lewisburg; Jennifer Almon’s home school, Bellevue; and Upton home school, Watertown.

The top two teams in the Music City competition will proceed to the South’s BEST competition in Auburn, Ala., in December, when more than 40 teams duke it out for top honors in the region.



Office of Communication
One University Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
615.966.1786 ◊ 800.333.4358
Fax: 615.966.1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.966.7078
janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Patriot Memorial Academy robot takes third place at robotics competition at Lipscomb University

NASHVILLE (Oct. 31, 2007) – Participating for the first time at the second annual Music City BEST Robotics Competition, held at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Saturday, Oct. 27, Patriot Memorial Academy’s robotics team took third place in the competition to collect the most “supplies” for a fictional Martian base.

Cheered on by mascots, cheerleaders and hundreds of fans, the Patriot Memorial robot was one of nine competing Saturday in the “2021: A Robot Odyssey.” The Lewisburg team was made up of seven students ranging from seventh to eleventh grades.

In addition to building the robot, the middle- and high-school teams competed with robot mascots, matching T-shirts, elaborate booths decorated in engineering themes, project notebooks and Web pages detailing their experiences creating their robots.

BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) is a 14-year-old, nationwide program that challenges middle and high school students to build their own robots to complete a designated task. Teams can only use the specific materials supplied to them six weeks before the competition – such as plywood, PVC pipe, duct tape, bicycle inner tubes, Velcro and various polymer machine components.

All the teams who participated were from McFadden Middle School, Murfreesboro; David Lipscomb Campus School, Nashville; Lewis County High School, Hohenwald; Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet; Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge; Ravenwood High School, Brentwood; West End Middle School, Nashville; Patriot Memorial Academy, Lewisburg; and the Bellevue Home School group.

McFadden Middle School and David Lipscomb Campus School won the top two spots at Music City BEST, held by the Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering at Lipscomb University, and will proceed to the regional finals at Auburn University on Dec. 7-8.



Office of Communication
3901 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
(615) 966-1786 ◊ (800) 333-4358
Fax: (615) 966-1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.966.7078
janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Hickman County Gazette
Hwy. 51 S.
PO Box 100

Clinton, KY 42031

Middle and high schools statewide called to register for annual robot-building contest

NASHVILLE (March 13, 2007) – For teachers whose students just can't get enough of C-3PO or *The Terminator*, Lipscomb University announces the second annual **Music City BEST** robotics competition, the perfect program to get future engineers thinking about building their own robot.

Lipscomb has officially opened the application period for the BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) program, a six-week robot design competition open to high schools and middle schools throughout Tennessee and Kentucky. The program concludes with a fun (and often high-pressure) competition in Lipscomb's Allen Arena on Oct. 2007.

2021: A Robot Odyssey is the theme for this year's competition, coordinated by the Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering at Lipscomb University. On **Sept. 15**, the university will hold a kick-off day event on the Nashville campus where students and teachers will get more details on the robot's assigned task for 2007, a closely-guarded secret until that day.

To sign up for the program, contact **Ben Hutchinson**, dean of Lipscomb's College of Natural and Applied Sciences, at **615.966.6042** or e-mail him at ben.hutchinson@lipscomb.edu. More information can be found at <http://cisweb.lipscomb.edu/MusicCityBest>.

The BEST program is a 15-year-old, nationwide program that inspires middle and high school students to careers in engineering, science, and technology through this competition to build a functioning robot.

Six schools from throughout Tennessee participated last year, each designing a robot capable of hanging and removing laundry from a clothesline. Each school received a set of official robot-building supplies, including plywood, PVC pipe, duct tape, bicycle inner tubes, Velcro and various polymer machine components.

(more)

Schools statewide to register for annual robot-building contest/Page 2

“We are using it as part of our engineering processes class,” said Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, Tenn., teacher Don Belcher last year. “We are studying the step-by-step process of how engineers solve problems, so when I heard about this program, I re-thought my lesson plans to incorporate this project.”

“It’s not really about robotics, even though the kids think it is,” said George Blanks, vice president of the BEST board of directors and director of K-12 outreach for Auburn University, a long-time BEST sponsor. “Really they learn about problem-solving, teamwork, leadership and consensus development. It’s teaching kids not just the engineering process, but how to solve a problem.”

The robot that earns the most points wins, but the students’ machines also compete for a bevy of other awards, such as Most Photogenic, Most Robust, Most Elegant, the BEST Award, and the Blood, Guts and Duct Tape Award for the team with few points, but lots of guts and spirit.

Students, teachers and parents involved in last year’s program were enthusiastic about the program, as evidenced by the cheerleaders, mascots and pep band squads who came out on game day to cheer on their teams of young engineers.

For more information on the program, contact Ben Hutchinson at 615.966.6042.



Office of Communication
One University Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37204-3951
615.966.1786 ◊ 800.333.4358
Fax: 615.966.1799
www.lipscomb.edu

News Release

CONTACT: Janel Shoun
615.966.7078
janel.shoun@lipscomb.edu

Editor
Oak Ridger

Student-built robot competition for 5th-12th-graders kicks off Sept. 15 at Lipscomb University

Space available for three more teams to pick up parts for building their own robot at kick-off

NASHVILLE (Aug. 27, 2007) – A crowd of eager students from all over Middle Tennessee, including Oak Ridge, will find out Sept. 15 the secret details of the second annual Music City BEST Competition, a statewide engineering contest for middle- and high-school teams hosted at Lipscomb University.

Music City BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology), has almost doubled in size this year, with 11 teams currently registered, including **Oak Ridge High School**, and space available for three more. The kick-off day at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15**, in **Allen Arena** will reveal the details of the robotic challenge, the 2007 game field and some of the engineering basics required to build this year's robot.

Other schools from Nashville, Hohenwald, Mt. Juliet, Brentwood and Murfreesboro have signed up to participate so far. Schools interested in participating in the competition and kick-off day should contact **Ben Hutchinson** at **966-6042** or ben.hutchinson@lipscomb.edu or **Karen Gibbs** at **966-6244** or karen.gibbs@lipscomb.edu. For more details about the event, visit Lipscomb's BEST web site at <http://cisweb.lipscomb.edu/MusicCityBEST/>.

This year's theme is "2021: A Robot Odyssey." Last year's theme, "Laundry Quandary," required teams to build a robot to hang and remove laundry from a line.

"I was amazed at how much the students learned in the BEST project last year," said Fred Gilliam, associate dean for Lipscomb's Raymond B. Jones School of Engineering,

sponsor of the Tennessee and Kentucky hub for the competition. “They took a very challenging problem and used their creativity and construction skills to make some very impressive robots that could open a door, move around and manipulate materials to score points in the competition. They learned a lot and had a ton of fun in the process.”

Music City BEST challenges each school team to design and build a radio-controlled machine to accomplish certain tasks in a game-type setting. The specific task remains secret until all participating teams gather to pick up their competition packets at the kick-off day. One team per school can participate in the competition.

On Sept. 15 teams will pick up their identical kits which include motors, batteries and raw materials, such as plywood and PVC pipe. They also will be able to examine the “playing field” – the course their robots will have to negotiate (some enterprising teams have been known to bring video cameras to document the game field). Students will also attend workshops to learn some electronics, mechanics and locomotion basics.

After the kick-off, teams will next meet at “Mall Day” on **Oct. 20** at Cool Springs Mall in Franklin, Tenn. Teams will be allowed to practice all day driving their machines on the actual playing field to be used on game day. Last year, this event drew an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers and some frantic students working to fine-tune their sometimes clunky robots.

The robots must be complete by **Oct. 27**, when all teams will meet at Allen Arena to pit their creations against each other in a heated competition. The winners of the Music City BEST competition will go to Auburn University to compete in The South’s BEST, the southeastern regional competition in December.

BEST, a non-profit volunteer-based organization, created the annual six-week competition designed to encourage middle and high school students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology.