



**South Carolina State University**  
*Division of Research and Economic Development*  
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Dr. Charles Wright  
Executive Director

January 28, 2013

**RE: 2012-13 FIRST Tech Robotics Challenge**

The South Carolina State University (SCSU) will host its ninth annual FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The event will be on the campus of South Carolina State University, at the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center is the sponsor for this year's FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Competition.

The main objective of the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is to help students build a strong foundation in Mathematics, Science and Technology. While the FTC aims to enhance creativity in problem solving and promote innovation, it also fosters teamwork and collaboration among students. In view of this, the James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center would like to encourage high school students in South Carolina to participate in the FTC competition.

Since its inception in 2004, the FTC has progressed rapidly. The event has now become one of the most popular events in South Carolina. We are excited to host the FIRST Tech Challenge once again this year and look forward to your participation and cooperation.

The twenty-first century is the dawn of a new era and thus brings forth a host of new challenges. Students need to develop and strengthen their critical and creative thinking skills as well as interpersonal communication skills which are essential for twenty-first century living. Thus, the FTC mission is to provide our students with a powerful learning platform. The FTC's vision is also in line with one of the goals set in the Education Blueprint that is developing quality human capital.

We are excited to launch the 2012/2013 FTC season, sure to engage a greater number of students in the excitement of discovering science, engineering, and technology. *FIRST Tech* Challenge teams will participate in the *Ring it Up!* Challenge for the 2012-13 season. Each game match is made up of two distinct types of play – driver-controlled and autonomous. Each tournament features alliances of two teams playing side-by-side on the playing field. The object of the game is to score more points than your opponent's alliance by placing plastic rings onto pegs on the center rack. Teams will also be challenged to detect special "weighted" rings to earn a special multiplier bonus.

Page 2

We are extending an invitation to join us at this interesting and competitive event. You may go online and register your school at [www.utc.scsu.edu](http://www.utc.scsu.edu). If your team needs help, please contact Mr. Lamar Tisdale at 803-536-8863 or email [ltisdale@scsu.edu](mailto:ltisdale@scsu.edu). *We also hope that this year's competition will show case fresh talent* from new teams. It is our greatest wish that the FTC will receive continued support and success in the years ahead.

The cost breakdown to compete is as follows:

\$ 275.00	Registration to USFIRST
\$ 325.00	Registration to SCSU-JECUTC

Additional information on the FTC is forthcoming. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 536-8863 or email [ltisdale@scsu.edu](mailto:ltisdale@scsu.edu).

Sincerely,

*Lamar Tisdale*

Lamar Tisdale  
Technology Transfer and Training Coordinator

cc: Dr. Charles Wright