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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Signature VEX Robotics competition attracts top high school teams from 25 States to Chantilly, VA

Students will compete for a spot at the VEX Robotics World Championship

Chantilly, VA – January 23, 2019 – Sixty high school robotics teams from across the country will compete in an elite two day VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) Signature Event, Jan 25-26, at the Dulles EXPO Center in Chantilly, VA. Students will compete for top honors to earn one of three qualifying spots for the VEX Robotics World Championship in April.

 "Night at the Museum" (or NATM19), is run by NOVA SySTEMic, Northern Virginia Community College's STEM Outreach program. NOVA SySTEMic is a leader in the nation in supporting VEX in the school divisions they serve with a proven track record of putting on high quality events that engage students in exciting, hands-on robotics engineering competitions.

NATM19 was originally slated for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA, but the continued government shutdown has made it necessary to change venues to the Dulles EXPO Center.

New to the VRC competition season this year, Signature Events promote regional play and give teams the option to have a destination beyond their State Championships. To fill the roster for NATM19, NOVA SySTEMic utilized award and match results of all competitions, provided by The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation, to recruit teams that had won a Skills Champion, Design, Tournament Champion, or Excellence Award locally and have demonstrated success in engineering, coding and documentation of the design process.

The 60 teams competing at the tournament have won a combined 88 Tournament Champion Awards, 62 Robot Skills Awards, 28 Design Awards, and 59 Excellence Awards from local events across the country. The quality of competition is stellar, with teams from Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Nevada, and Texas ranking in the top 3 in their state for Skills scores (of this, 8 teams have the 3rd best skills score in their state, 7 teams the 2nd highest, and 12 teams the highest). Teams from Maryland, West Virginia, New York, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Arizona are also represented at the event.

Students involved in robotics learn how to program and build robots, and to communicate and collaborate with team members and with other teams as they form the strongest alliances during competitions. As a result, students learn the technical skills and soft skills that prepare them for success in the workforce.

Supported by Micron, DynCorp International, and the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation, NATM19 is free to the public and takes place Friday, January 25th from 10am – 10:30pm and Saturday, January 26th from 9:30am -4:30pm.

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For additional event details visit the REC event webpage: www.robotevents.com/robot-competitions/vex-robotics-competition/RE-VRC-18-6207.html