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Limitless STEM Initiative Yields 53 Students of Color For The LA Regional Botball® Tournament.

Los Angeles, CA – The Botball® Educational Robotics Tournament and Junior Botball® Challenge engages elementary, middle and high school aged students in a team-oriented robotics competition. Botball® addresses our nation's need for a well-prepared, creative, yet disciplined workforce with leadership and teamwork experience. Students use STEM science, engineering, technology, math, and writing skills to design, build, program, and document robots in a hands-on project. Student teams utilize and compete with autonomous (no remote control) robots.

The Limitless STEM initiative had teams from (Inglewood USD) Inglewood High School, Monroe Middle School, Woodworth Elementary, (Los Angeles USD) Audubon Middle School, the Breese Foundation and the Limitless Academy. In the Junior Botball arena, students worked to complete nine (9) challenges and were awarded buttons for completion of each task from programming their robots to complete a figure eight, to picking up objects and moving them to other locations. Each student was awarded a button for completing each challenge. Of the nine challenges, Inglewood High School completed all of their challenges, and then worked to support the elementary students at Woodworth. All of the students were excited to participate and worked hard to complete the challenges so they could receive their buttons. Everyone was a winner!

"Witnessing the impact that The Limitless Initiative students had at this year's competition, was truly phenomenal to observe. We've been able to grow The Limitless Initiative at an accelerated pace, bringing cutting edge STEM technology to hundreds of inner-city youth across Los Angeles county. Judging by our overall showing at the competition this year, we have clearly struck a chord with the community, all that was needed was exposure, support, and belief," said Brandon V. Chrétien, founder and advisor for The Limitless Academy.

The Limitless STEM Initiative was established in 2016 with the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics (KIPR) and Concerned Citizens Community Involvement (CCCI), to create a joint Computer Science-STEM initiative for our nation's inner cities by targeting implementation into 25 U.S. cities and serving an estimated 2500 youth by 2018. KIPR innovators in STEM education provided the curriculum, coaches training for The Limitless Initiative, and serve as a strategic partner and organizer for the Botball® competition. www.thelimitlessinitiative.org



In 2016, The White House identified The Limitless STEM Initiative as a key program in their #CSForAll (Computer Science For All) Campaign under the Obama Administration, and as a result the Limitless team was invited to The White House three times in 2016.

To kick off "The Limitless STEM Initiative" Audubon Middle School (Los Angeles USD) was first to implement the program as an elective with the support of their principal understanding the importance of #CSForAll. Teacher Valerie Doby works with Audubon students daily and volunteers on Saturdays to teach the students in the Limitless Academy.

With an ambitious fundraising campaign, the Limitless STEM Initiative continued to expand. Chris Baccus, executive director, states, "Verizon is our first national sponsor and we connected with them based on their desire to support the Inglewood Unified School District. A Verizon executive heard Dr. Jacquelin Sanderlin, Executive Director, School and Community Relations, speak at an event and contacted us to help the district and align our STEM initiative with Inglewood first! As an Inglewood native, we talked about the passion I had to see the district succeed and influence more students of color to see Tech careers as an option." The STEM curriculum is taught in the classroom and as a pullout program in the Inglewood Unified School District.

In addition to the Junior Botball® Tournament, we developed an Elite team of four eager students from South Los Angeles to compete in the Regional Botball® Tournament sponsored in part by NASA at Providence High School in Burbank. The Limitless Academy Elite team is comprised of four students, two girls and two boys. The team dedicated four hours every Saturday at the Southside Church of Christ (in South LA), for a total of ten weeks, in order to prepare for the competition. The team members are 7th-9th graders named Orion Naulls, Heather Middleton, Sebastian Avila and Ziah Sells. In 2016, The Limitless Academy took home the award for "Outstanding Programming". ***We are proud to announce the Elite Team finished 4th in the 2017 Double Elimination Robotics Competition our highest ranking in three years of participation.***

The Limitless Academy is proud to have a host of volunteers to support its educational efforts. Coach and lead instructor Chester Hawkins, a software engineer by profession, was very successful in teaching student's problem solving skills as well as advanced computer programming and robotic design. www.thelimitlessacademy.org

The Limitless STEM Initiative will continue to strive to meet its goals to serve an estimated 2500 youth by 2018. Look for us soon in Houston, Texas. We are Limitless!!!

Concerned Citizens Community Involvement (CCCI) a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization promotes health, education, and well-being in South Los Angeles and neighboring communities. More information can be found at: www.cccinvolve.org