



#### SOUTHWESTERN PA BotsIQ Management Committee

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Paul Anselmo	New Century Careers	Johanna Murphy	Univ. of Pittsburgh – MAC
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Carmen Grosse	NTMA	Carl Wiedenhofer	Jennison Corp.
Emily Johnston	Kurt J. Lesker Company		

May 13, 2010

Greetings,

The 5th annual Southwestern PA BotsIQ Competition at Century III Mall in April 2010 was a huge success! In 2011 we plan to expand the competition in southwestern PA and we would like to invite your school to participate. We are sending out this invitation early so that schools can start planning now for the spring 2011 competition (date and location to be announced.) Because of the anticipated number of teams, a preliminary elimination round may be held several weeks prior to the final competition date.

BotsIQ is a unique educational program that motivates students to learn about engineering and technology to help them prepare for the priority and high-demand jobs of the future. It introduces students to a range of technologies as they plan, design, build, test, document, and battle 15-pound robots. At the same time they develop the skills desperately needed in the workplace such as teamwork, problem solving and communication.

**Please Note:** For the 2011 competition, BotsIQ awards will be enhanced to include a “Grand Champion” that incorporates the increased emphasis on documentation reflecting industry requirements. In addition, a “Best Rookie” award will be given to recognize the daunting challenge newer schools face.

The BotsIQ Program provides instructors with a technical curriculum developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that helps teachers meet state technical education standards as well as career education standards.

This letter is being sent to superintendents, directors, principals, guidance counselors, drafting, electronics, machining, welding and technology education instructors in public high schools, charter schools, and career and technology centers in the nine county area of southwestern PA. Please pass this letter on to other teachers, who might be a champion for the BotsIQ program.

#### To participate in the program:

1. **Submit an application to the Southwestern PA BotsIQ Committee by FRIDAY, June 18, 2010.**

- Please download the application for the 2011 Southwestern PA BotsIQ Competition from our website at [www.BotsIQpa.org](http://www.BotsIQpa.org).
- Return the application to:

Carmen Grosse  
New Century Careers  
333 East Carson Street, Suite 431  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-992-6896

Fax: 412-258-6625  
email: [grosse@ncsquared.com](mailto:grosse@ncsquared.com)

- The BotsIQ committee will select teams that have submitted complete applications by the deadline per the criteria listed below.
  - One team will be selected from each of the nine counties of southwestern PA.
  - The schools that competed in 2010 will be given preference; however, they MUST submit an application by the deadline to participate.
  - The remaining schools will be selected in the order in which their applications are received. Schools from within the nine county area of southwestern PA will be given preference.
- 2. You must select a primary team advisor who is committed to the initiative and is willing to communicate with the BotsIQ organizing committee.
- 3. This team advisor must organize a team of students to build a 15-pound robot per BotsIQ technical regulations and to participate in the 2011 competition.
- 4. Your school must send at least one instructor to the kick-off of the BotsIQ Instructor Training on October 7, 2010 at California University of PA. Additional optional training modules (2 days) are also recommended, particularly for new advisors. The training will provide teachers with the resources, curriculum, knowledge and experience for building bots and for advising a student team. **Scholarships are available for one instructor from every participating school to attend for FREE.**
- 5. Each school participating in the 2011 competition may be required to send one instructor to an update session after Jan. 1, 2011 to help resolve any issues or concerns that may have arisen.
- 6. The enclosure “What Does It Take To Participate” outlines the financial and other support commitment necessary to participate in the 2011 competition.

Check out our website at [www.BotsIQpa.org](http://www.BotsIQpa.org) for photos of the 2010 competition and information about the 2011 competition.

We encourage you to join in the excitement of the 2011 Southwestern PA BotsIQ competition.

Sincerely,



Phyllis E. Miller  
Human Resources Manager, Hamill Manufacturing Company  
Chairperson, Southwestern PA BotsIQ Event Committee

Enclosure