

**NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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**SWPA BotsIQ Announces 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Competition**

PITTSBURGH, PA – Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ (SWPA BotsIQ) is pleased to announce the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual preliminary and final competition dates. The preliminary competitions will take place at Butler County Community College on March 7, 8, and 9, and at Westmoreland County Community College on March 16, 17, and 18. Bots will battle it out to be the Grand Champion during the finals on April 26, 27, and 29 at California University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Brooks, the SWPA BotsIQ Program manager, says this year she is looking forward to seeing new and improved designs, and watching some exciting battles. Last year, 63 schools, 87 teams and 1, 200 students gathered for the competition, and just as great of a turnout is expected this year.

BotsIQ is a manufacturing workforce development program disguised as a high school robotics competition. While students are having fun constructing a 15-pound battle bot, they are simultaneously developing technical skills in mechanical and electrical engineering, and machining and welding, along with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills needed for the next generation of manufacturing workers. There is a significant skills and interest gap in manufacturing, and the program aims to close the gap by attracting, preparing and empowering the next generation of manufacturing workers.

Applications for teams and industry advisors are still being accepted. Interested schools and companies should contact Sarah Brooks at 412-258-6628 or brooks@ncsquared.com for more information.

SWPA BotsIQ (<http://www.botsiqpa.org/>) is an educational robotics competition for high school age students. It provides these students with a unique, hands-on experience that allows them to discover the possibilities of a career in the manufacturing sector, and other science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields.

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