

FIRST Robotics to unveil 2015 competition on Jan. 3

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — This year's robotics challenge will be revealed to teams of local high schools students Jan. 3 at Lake Michigan College in Benton Township during a live broadcast to teams across the nation.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international nonprofit organization that encourages young people to develop an interest in math, science and technology through its robotics program. The students learn from professional engineers and qualify for almost \$14.8 million in college scholarships.

Teams will be able to see a partial play field at the kickoff event. The 2015 game rules and objectives will be announced, and the teams will receive their kits of parts so they can begin designing and building their robots for competition.

Students will design and assemble robots over a six-week period. Completed robots will later be judged in competitions at the regional, state and global level.

Jan. 3 speakers include Bob Harrison, president of Lake Michigan College, and U.S. Rep. Fred Upton.

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an introduction of the program,



HP file photo

Jermonia Burrell, left, and Robbie Overton, work on the Benton Harbor High School team's robot last March during the 2014 FIRST Robotics District Competition at St. Joseph High School. The local kickoff for this year's competition will be Jan. 3 at Lake Michigan College.

teams and sponsors at LMC's Grand Upton Hall.

At 10:30 a.m., there will be a live feed from the FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) headquarters via NASA satellite.

The partial play field will be revealed at 11:30 a.m. in the Dance

Drama Room.

Teams will be able to collect their kits of parts at 11:45 a.m.

A resources workshop will be at noon, with teams working on their strategies from 1-3 p.m.

Twenty-six teams from eight area high schools are expected to attend.