

LMC to kick off robotics challenge

High school robotics teams to begin 6-week challenge Saturday

By **TONY WITTKOWSKI**
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College is set to host the robotics challenge debut for high school students Saturday.

During the live televised broadcast from FIRST – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology – this year’s robotics challenge will be revealed to teams of high school students who will design, build and program robots over the next six-weeks.

Team check-in is at 9 a.m. in the LMC Mendel Center Grand Upton Hall at 2755 E. Napier Ave. in Benton Township. At 10:30 a.m., teams will

get the live feed from FRC Headquarters via Comcast.

At 11:30 a.m., the kits of parts will be distributed. The Upton Hall will remain open for teams to work on their projects.

Teams will be able to view a partial game field and game pieces set up in secret that will be revealed at the kickoff event. The 2016 competition game rules and objectives will then be announced.

The 26 teams will also receive their kits of parts to begin designing and building their robots for competition. Completed robots will later be judged in a district, state and global competition.

Registered students

and teams will be from Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kent, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. A team from South Bend will also take part. Among these teams, more than 300 students and mentors will be in attendance.

FIRST is an international nonprofit K-12 organization that designs programs to encourage students to pursue interests in math, science, technology and engineering through education and career opportunities. The FIRST robotics program allows students to learn from professional engineers and qualify for nearly \$25 million in college scholarships each year.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski