

NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Susan Nisan, Principal, (209) 238-6800
Cynthia Fenech, Communications Coordinator, (209) 238-1704
Judy Leitz, Communications Coordinator, (209) 238-1709

LOCAL STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY VEX ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT

Middle and high school students from Northern & Central California will descend upon **Modesto Junior College** (Mary Stuart Hall, 2200 Blue Gum, Modesto) on **December 6** from **7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** for the Central California 4th Annual VEX Skyrise Robotics Competition. Seventy teams will come together for a non-stop, action packed day of competition where they will battle against each other with robots created from the VEX Robotics Design System. Co-sponsored by the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and Modesto Junior College, the tournament is free and open to the public.

Participants will compete for the championship title by strategically executing the game Toss Up, driving robots they designed, built and programmed from the ground up. VEX Skyrise is played on a 12'x12' square field. Two alliances – one “red” and one “blue” – composed of two teams each, compete in matches consisting of a fifteen second autonomous period followed by one minute and forty-five seconds of driver-controlled play.

By competing in a VEX tournament students have an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments with peers, competitors, family and friends, while allowing them to experience the thrill of building their own competition robot. This Competition serves as a vehicle for students to develop critical life skills such as teamwork, leadership and project management, honed through building robots and competing with like-minded students from the community in a pulse-pounding, exciting, non-traditional environment. According to County Superintendent of Schools, Tom Changnon, “The Vex Robotics Competition instills in the students a deeper appreciation for science and technology.”

The Central California 4th Annual VEX Skyrise Robotics Competition is one in a series of tournaments supported by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation and various national, regional and local sponsors. The competition season culminates each spring with the top performing teams from local and state VEX Robotics Competitions competing against each other at the World Championship Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Participating local schools include: **Central Valley High School, Ceres High School, and Valley Charter High School.** For more information about the event, call Tina Collier at (209) 679-1003.