



Office of Community Relations

15802 North Parkview Place • Surprise, Arizona 85374
phone: 623.876.7000 • web: www.dysart.org

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Willow Canyon's RoboMasters win state championship

DYSART SCHOOLS — The Willow Canyon High School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Club robotics team, led by science teacher Paul Tennyson, competed at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) on January 21 in Flagstaff, AZ with 21 teams from across Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Willow Canyon's RoboMasters formed an alliance team with Gilbert's Highland High School and Tucson's St. Gregory College Prep. The collaboration was named the Arizona FTC Championship Alliance.

RoboMasters Team 5042 shared second place in the INSPIRE Award category, which is given to teams based on their engineering notebook, team interview, community service, and competition participation. The INSPIRE Award is the most prestigious FTC award, and is given to the role model team that truly embodied the challenge of the FTC program. The team that receives this award is a top contender for all other judging categories and is a strong competitor on the field.

This year is the first year for the STEM Club RoboMasters to work and compete with their robot. Fourteen members of the 60-member STEM Club attended the competition. Having worked together since September, each student committed an average of ten hours a week totaling over 160 hours of discovery learning through informal science education.

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