



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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Orange Unified School District Gears Up for National Robotics Week

ORANGE, CA (April 10, 2014) – The Orange Unified School District will be hosting its inaugural Robotics Championship on Friday, April 11, at Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School. Twenty-five teams from across the district will be competing in several robotics activities using the VEX IQ platform.

The event is part of this year’s fifth annual National Robotics Week, to be held April 5-13. Established by Congress in 2010 to raise awareness about robots and their important role in shaping the future of education, industry and the U.S. economy, National Robotics Week brings together students, educators and influencers who share a passion for robots and technology. It also aims to inspire students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related fields.

Robotics has taken off since Orange Unified started a new STEM pilot program utilizing the VEX IQ robotics system. Students readily embraced the technology, competing and garnering top honors at the World VEX Robotics Competition at Anaheim Convention Center in April 2013.

“Engineering is the future and our school district has embraced robotics as a tool to help lead our children to a successful life. Our children love it and work so hard and are getting so much out of it,” shares Jami Cabase, robotics teacher at Yorba.

Cabase worked with professors and staff from the University of Southern California’s Viterbi School of Engineering to create the Advanced Technology – Robotic Engineering class that is now offered at Yorba. In this new class, students learn a variety of tools and programming languages as they program, design and build robots.

“When I asked one of my students why is robotics so cool, he told me: ‘They’re robots and robots rock, duh!’”

For more information about National Robotics Week, go to:

<http://www.nationalroboticsweek.org/>.

The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.