



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Algoma Children Apply Research and Robotics to Explore the Future of Learning with *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) “FLL WORLD CLASSSM” Challenge



(Sault Ste. Marie, ON November 28, 2014) Creativity and science will come together at this weekend’s [FIRST® LEGO® League](#) (FLL®) Algoma

Region Official Qualifier at Sault College, where nine teams of 9 to 14 year-old children and coaches will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship, and sense of community. The high-energy competition gets underway on Saturday November 29th with opening ceremonies beginning at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Health and Wellness Centre at Sault College.

This year’s [“FLL WORLD CLASSSM” Challenge](#) calls for teams to research and present their own creative solutions to one of today’s most relevant topics: the future of learning. More than 267,000 children in approximately 80 countries around the world will teach adults about the ways that kids need and want to learn in the 21st century, and will develop their own innovative tools to help others gather knowledge as part of the FLL season challenge.

With missions that include pushing a lever to open a door to learning, moving an idea outside of the box, loading a model with knowledge and skill loops, and more, teams will have to program their LEGO MINDSTORMS® robots to solve a set of missions on an obstacle course set on a thematic playing surface.

The FLL competition is judged in four areas: project presentation, robot performance, technical design and programming of the robot and teamwork, with a consideration of the [FLL Core](#)

Values. The highest honour will go to the team that best exemplifies the spirit and values of the program.

This weekend's Algoma Region Qualifying Tournament is being hosted and sponsored by Sault College, with additional support provided by the Algoma District School Board, Huron Superior-Catholic District School Board, and the Algoma Chapter of the Professional Engineers of Ontario. The competition is open to the public and an awards ceremony will take place in the afternoon. Students will compete in the main challenge area completing several robotic missions. There is no cost for admission to the event.

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ABOUT FIRST®

FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) is an international program for 9 to 14 year-olds created in a partnership between *FIRST* and the LEGO Group in 1998 to get children excited about science and technology – and teach them valuable career and life skills. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technologies and LEGO Education materials, children work alongside adult Mentors to design, build, and program autonomous robots and create an innovative solution to a problem as part of their research project. After eight intense weeks, the competition season culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments. Like any other organized “sport,” teams also fundraise, create a team identity, and go on field trips.

About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province with a score of 85% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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