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**BridgeValley welcomes young scientist to face off in robotic competition**

**South Charleston, W.Va.**— BridgeValley Community and Technical College will host the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics Competition Regional Qualifier Saturday where over 100 aspiring engineers faced off. Ten teams will face-off in the daylong event in four different categories: Robot design, Core Values, Research Project, and Table games competition. Teams will battle in head-to-head competitions from 1 to 3 p.m.

“FIRST Lego League Competitions are a great opportunity for young students to experience science, technology, engineering, and mathematics during fun and hands-on activities, said Melissa Thompson, BridgeValley Outreach Director. “The primary goal of the day is to inspire students to consider a STEM related career and to have students taking the math and sciences courses, which will prepare them college.”

The winning teams from BridgeValley’s FLL Regional Qualifier will be eligible to participate at the West Virginia FLL Championship on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fairmont State University.

BridgeValley has held LEGO Robotic events for over 10 years. The partnership with the NASA IV & V Educator Resource Center with FLL has taken their robotics interest to a whole new level. BridgeValley continues to expand outreach effort to get young students interested in technical concepts and challenges to increase enrollment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses.

FLL programs introduce students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. Competitors designed, built, tested and programmed robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology. The aim of the FLL competition was to help students develop critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills as they overcame a series of obstacles and challenges.

BridgeValley Community and Technical College serves a six-county region including Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas, Clay, Putnam and Kanawha counties. The college operates two campuses Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the new Advanced Technology Center. *BridgeValley awards one-year certificates and two-year associate degrees in many fields including civil, mechanical and electrical engineering technology, business and health management, nursing, dental hygiene, business technology, medical assisting, diesel technology, computer information technology, and welding.*

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