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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***FIRST* Tech Challenge Charlottesville Qualifier Event Sponsored by Micron, hosted by University of Virginia School of Engineering– 36 Middle and High School Robotics Teams to Compete at University of Virginia**

Charlottesville, Virginia. January 4, 2020...More than 400 of the best and brightest middle and high school students in Virginia will meet at University of Virginia Slaughter Recreation Center to test their teamwork and ingenuity at the *FIRST* Tech Charlottesville Virginia Qualifier Sponsored by Micron, hosted by University of Virginia School of Engineering. This event, on January 4, 2020, is free and open to the public.

WHAT: *FIRST* Tech Challenge Charlottesville Virginia Qualifier Sponsored by Micron, hosted by University of Virginia School of Engineering

WHEN: January 4, 2020, 7:00am-5:00pm

WHERE: University of Virginia Slaughter Recreation Center – 505 Edgemont Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903

WHO: The best and brightest middle and high school students from Virginia pit their robots against the [SKYSTONE Challenge](#) Sponsored by Qualcomm for a spot at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Virginia State Championship Sponsored by Capital One.

The robots are coming! Winners will earn a chance to compete at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Virginia Championship Sponsored by Capital One in Richmond on February 22nd. This year's challenge, SKYSTONE, uses a playing field where teams strategize, form alliances, and demonstrate gracious professionalism while moving "stones" and assembling them onto alliance-specific foundations. Team robots are required to work autonomously, as well as with drivers, to score points using teamwork and *coopertition*. Families and the general public are invited to come out and cheer on their favorite team and learn more about *FIRST* programs. The event is free and open to the public.

Major sponsors include Newport News Shipbuilding, Capital One, and Collins Aerospace. For sponsor details, visit www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors.

About *FIRST*®Chesapeake

FIRST Chesapeake dba Virginia*FIRST* administers the [FIRST Tech Challenge Program](#) in Virginia and the [FIRST Robotics Competition Program](#) for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Each year, *FIRST* Chesapeake directly impacts over 7,000 middle and high school students through robotics workshops and competitions. Over 50,000 individuals attend 20+ *FIRST* Chesapeake robotics competitions and workshops from November through April each year. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake, go to www.firstchesapeake.org. Follow Us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

About *FIRST*®

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *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. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*®Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*®Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*®LEGO®League for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*®LEGO®League Jr. for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*® is a way of doing things that encourages high quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org

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