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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIRST Tech Challenge McHenry MD Qualifier Event– 29 Middle and High School Robotics Teams to Compete at Garrett College**

McHenry, Maryland. January 21, 2023...More than 200 of the best and brightest middle and high school students in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia will meet at Garrett College to test their teamwork and ingenuity at the FIRST Tech Challenge McHenry MD Qualifier Event. This event, on January 21, 2023, is free and open to the public.

**WHAT:** [FIRST Tech Challenge McHenry MD Qualifier](#)

**WHEN:** January 21, 2023, 7:00am-5:00pm

**WHERE:** Garrett College CARC Gymnasium- 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD 21541

**WHO:** The best and brightest middle and high school students from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia pit their robots against the [POWER PLAY Challenge](#) Presented by Raytheon Technologies for a spot at the FIRST Chesapeake FIRST Tech Challenge Championship Sponsored by Capital One.

The robots are coming! Winners will earn a chance to compete at the FIRST Chesapeake FIRST Tech Challenge Championship Sponsored by Capital One in Severn, MD on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This year's challenge, POWERPLAY, uses a playing field where teams strategize, form alliances, and demonstrate gracious professionalism while moving cones and assembling them onto stationary and spring-mounted junctions. 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 for the season include Booz Allen Hamilton, Qualcomm, U.S. Dept of Energy- EERE, Dominion Energy, and Leidos. For sponsor details, visit [www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors](http://www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors).

### **About FIRST @Chesapeake**

FIRST Chesapeake dba VirginiaFIRST 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 8,000 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](http://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](http://www.firstinspires.org)

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