For Immediate Release

Littleton Robotics' Mechanical Advantage *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team Wins at Two Competitions

(Littleton, MA) April 2, 2019 – Mechanical Advantage 6328, Littleton Robotics' third-year *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team, won their second and third competitive events on back-to-back weekends. In addition, the team was honored with the Gracious Professionalism Award and the Innovation in Control Award.

Mechanical Advantage competed at the Western New England District event March 23-24, held at Western New England University in Springfield, MA where the team:

- won the event with alliance partners FRC 176 (Aces High from Windsor Locks, CT) and FRC 195 (CyberKnights from Southington, CT).
- won the Gracious Professionalism Award, which celebrates outstanding demonstration of *FIRST* Core Values such as Gracious Professionalism, working together both on and off the playing field, and demonstrating that fierce competition and mutual gain are not mutually exclusive.

The team then went on to compete at the Central MA District event March 30-31, held at Shrewsbury High School in Shrewsbury, MA where they:

- won the event with alliance partners FRC 78 (Air Strike from Newport, RI) and FRC 125 (NUTRONs from Boston, MA).
- won the Innovation in Control Award *Sponsored by Rockwell Automation*. This award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components to provide unique machine functions and was awarded to honor Mechanical Advantage's unique robot climbing mechanism used to complete one of the 2019 game components (see https://youtu.be/nrvm5VrX-d0 for a demonstration of the climbing mechanism).

"At both events, our students and mentors showcased how they have truly coalesced into a well-defined team this season," said Deanna Clark, Team Manager and Mentor for Mechanical

Advantage. “Everyone knew the part they needed to play and executed their work to high standards with consistency, determination, and a whole lot of fun. They were continuously working to improve our robot and game strategy between every match without losing any of their energy and enthusiasm, even when things were looking tough.”

At the team’s first 2019 competition in early March, the team was awarded the Engineering Inspiration Award which celebrates a team’s outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team’s organization and community. The team will compete for the New England Championship Engineering Inspiration Award at the FRC New England District Championships held at WPI in Worcester on April 11-13, 2019.

Through the summer and fall of 2018, Mechanical Advantage participated in a variety of outreach events, including Littleton’s Third Thursdays, Greenfest in Boston, and hosting a Girl Scouts robotics badge event, to help educate communities about *FIRST* and STEM educational opportunities. The team also focused on fundraising with sponsors and held training meetings for new team members. Littleton Robotics, the non-profit organization behind Mechanical Advantage, also ran three *FIRST* Lego League teams and hosted a *FIRST* Lego League Jr. team.

Mechanical Advantage is actively looking for organizations willing to help sponsor the team. For more information, please contact info@littletonrobotics.org or visit the team’s website at littletonrobotics.org. Follow along with the team’s season on social media on Facebook (Mechanical Advantage), Twitter (@FRC6328), or Instagram (@FRC6328).

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-4. *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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