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**Media Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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## SUSD Robots Roll into Final Tourney

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (April 4, 2018)** – This week, robotics teams from all five SUSD high schools – Arcadia, Chaparral, Coronado, Desert Mountain and Saguaro – will take part in the Arizona West Regional robotics tournament at Grand Canyon University (GCU) in Phoenix.

Forty-one Arizona teams will gather at the GCU Arena for the FIRST® Power Up competition. The final Saturday challenge of the tournament will see qualifying teams form three-school alliances to defeat a video game ‘boss.’ [\(Watch a video from a recent Power Up tournament here.\)](#)

This is the last tournament through which an Arizona high school robotics team can qualify for the FIRST® Championship in Houston, Texas, April 18-21. Last year, students from Chaparral and Desert Mountain were among the thousands of students from around the world who competed.

The AZ West Regional competition schedule:

<b>Thursday, April 5</b>	12 – 6 p.m.	Practice matches
<b>Friday, April 6</b>	8 a.m.	Pits, machine shop open
	8:30 a.m.	Opening ceremony
	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 5:45 p.m.	Qualification matches
	5:45 p.m.	Awards ceremony
<b>Saturday, April 7</b>	8 a.m.	Pits, machine shop open
	8:30 a.m.	Opening ceremony
	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Qualification matches
	12:15 p.m.	Alliance selections
	1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Playoff matches
	4:30 p.m.	Awards ceremony

Robotics has become a staple of SUSD STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – programs in recent years, with teams based at elementary, middle and high schools. District PreK-12 Science Curriculum Academic Coach Barb Reinert says the activities involved combine many skill sets. “Robotics helps to develop ‘Future-Ready Skills,’ such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. It is also suitable for students with a wide range of abilities, making it an inclusive activity.”

FIRST, short for ‘For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,’ is an international youth organization that operates robotics leagues for students ages 6-18.

The *Core Purpose* of the Scottsdale Unified School District is *To Ensure All Individual Learners Reach Their Full Potential*. The Scottsdale Unified School District offers 30 schools, serving approximately 23,000 students. School boundaries include parts of Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Phoenix and Tempe. Find more information about SUSD at [www.susd.org](http://www.susd.org).