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Maciejewski Coaches Students to First Place in 'Mission Mars' Robotics Tournament

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The four-student team from Ridgeview Classical School show off their first-place ribbons, medals and Lego trophy. The team was coached by CSU Electrical and Computer Engineering department head Tony Maciejewski.

Tony Maciejewski, head of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Colorado State University, coached a student team from Ridgeview Classical School in Fort Collins to a first-place state tournament victory in robotics performance last Saturday. The students competed at Steinhauer Fieldhouse on the Colorado School of Mines campus in Golden. The four-person Ridgeview Classical team is one of 4,200 teams in 12 countries that competed in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League competitions on Dec.6.

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The students guide an autonomous robot through obstacles on a simulated Mars surface.

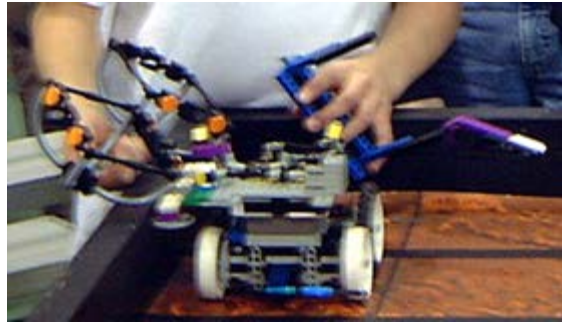
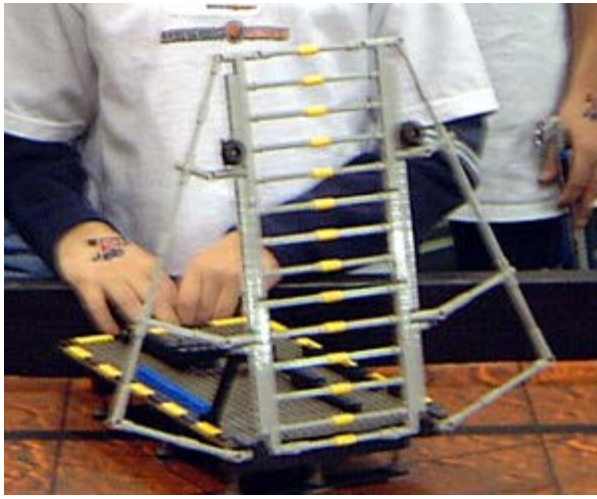
The competition, sponsored by Lockheed Martin and organized by the nonprofit group ColoradoFIRST, is geared at making science and technology fun for kids. The 2003 "Mission Mars" challenged students to explore the obstacles engineers and scientists face in designing technology for the extreme conditions of the Red Planet.



The Ridgeview Classical team was one of 20 teams - each with up to 10 members who range in age from 9 to 14 - who competed in the tournament on Dec. 6.

"The FIRST LEGO robotics competitions are an excellent way to expose children to the excitement and challenges of engineering. They require the kids to analyze problems, develop specifications, brainstorm about possible solutions, evaluate different designs, and test, test, test - all the things that real engineers do," said Maciejewski.

Read the [Denver Post article](#) online for more information on the student competition or visit the [CSU Electrical and Computer Engineering website](#) to learn more about robotics at Colorado State University.



Two of the robots the Ridgeview Classical School team used in the simulation (above and left).

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