



ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

News Release

December 14, 2005

For Information Contact:
Joe Manguno
Atlanta Public Schools
Office of Communications
(404) 802-2829
jmanguno@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Two APS robotics teams awarded \$6,000 grants

ATLANTA – Southside and Therrell high schools robotics teams have been awarded \$6,000 grants by the NASA Robotics Alliance Project to take part in the 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition.

The two Atlanta Public Schools were among 127 nationwide, but only three from the state of Georgia, to be awarded the grants.

FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a multinational non-profit organization that aims to transform culture, making science, math, engineering, and technology as cool for kids as sports are today. The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is a multinational competition that teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way.

Jena Rainey, team sponsor for the Southside Lasers, says she applied for the grant in October. She says she and her students, who have been preparing for the competition since September, are "excited about the award."

Rainey says the Lasers will be competing in both the FIRST and VEX robotics competitions. The *FIRST* Vex Challenge (FVC) is a pilot, mid-level robotics competition

for high-school students. It offers the traditional challenge of a *FIRST* competition but with a more accessible and affordable robotics kit.

In April 2005, a FIRST Vex Challenge demonstration event was held at the *FIRST* Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Fifty-three teams representing three countries competed.