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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Glencoe's Shockwave Nearly Qualifies for 'World Cup' of Robotics

April 30, 2015, Hillsboro, Ore. – Competing at the FIRST® World Championships for robotics on April 22-25 in St. Louis, Missouri, Glencoe High School's Team Shockwave led its alliance to the runner-up Division Finalist position. This was just a single step away from the vaunted Einstein Division, the "World Cup" of robotics where world champions are crowned. As part of this year's "Recycle Rush" competition theme, the challenge was to have the team robots successfully pick up litter and stack storage crates.

Ranked second in the Pacific Northwest and 11th in the nation, Shockwave faced 75 teams from Hawaii to Israel in its division, and allied with teams from Pennsylvania and Michigan. Its only loss during the week was to an alliance of teams from the U.S., Canada and Israel in the division finals. It was still a tremendous result—this is a team that went from rookies to alliance captains in three years! In addition to its national ranking, Shockwave is in the top 150 of all 3000 FRC teams in the world, with many wins and awards as evidence of its success.

"This is a great source of pride for me, the team, and should be for our Hillsboro community," team advisor Chris Steiner said. "Support for the team is attracting positive attention to Hillsboro."

Getting to the international stage and competing against the best large robots in the world was no easy feat. Team Shockwave's 36 students and 15 mentors each put in 80 to 200 hours of work over six weeks to build "Solar Flare," their competition robot and its twin prototype, and to support their busy competition schedule. Local companies worked with Shockwave to help fabricate and powdercoat key parts of the robot. Importantly, students are building connections with the firms; several Shockwave students found jobs with high-tech sponsors following last year's season.

The long-term benefits to the students are also evident. Steiner noted: "The fact that our team is earning ever-increasing rank and honors in world competition shows that Shockwave students are really growing intellectually and learning advanced engineering skills. Skills such as problem analysis, strategic planning, market and competitive research, and working together as a team are all part of what we practice."

Steiner credits the "secrets of our success" to well-prepared students who have benefited from the Hillsboro School District's Career and Technical Education programs and afterschool STEM programs, and the commitment of tireless volunteer mentors from the business community. This strong foundation "is ensuring leadership and success for the next generation of engineers."

More information about Team Shockwave may be found at <http://glencoerobotics.com> or by contacting advisor Chris Steiner at steinerc@hsd.k12.or.us

VIDEO: Team Shockwave's robot in action: <https://youtu.be/VpZazV3wP1s>

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