



## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: October 28, 2019

Contact: Lyric Cairns, Physics/AP1 Teacher, South High School, 785-309-3674

Adam Lesser, Earth Science Teacher, South High School, 785-309-3674

Jennifer Bradford-Vernon, Public Information Director, (785) 309-4723

## **SHS Robotics Competes, Earns Place in Semi Finals**

South High School (SHS) Robotics competed Saturday, October 26 against 26 teams at the BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) robotics competition at Wichita State University (WSU).\*

Teams are given the same package of wood, PVC, motors, servos, computer software and other materials and tasked with building a robot to solve a specific problem. The 2019 BEST competition titled "Off the Grid" charged students to build a robot able to replace downed power lines, transformers and other electrical systems after a natural disaster.

After six Seeding Rounds with a combined score of 1070, the team was in 7<sup>th</sup> place earning a position in the Semi Finals. The team made adjustments to programming and strategy and after the three Semi Final Rounds they had a combined score of 1480 putting them in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and moving them into the Final Round.

During the three Final Rounds, with a combined score of 960, the team was in 4<sup>th</sup> place by only 30 points. This earned them a trip to compete in the top level of competition on December 8 in Denver, Colorado. Nick Lake, senior Robotics member, enjoys figuring out how to build the robot to solve a complex problem. He describes competition day as, "chaotic, fast paced and very competitive."

Robot drivers at Saturday's BEST competition were Justin Zwigart, Nick Lake, Zoel Reitz, Will Fulkerson, Thomas Moyer with Spotter Angel Felix. Attending team members were Payton Tarver and Denalyn Vasquez. Other team members not able to attend Saturday were Hector Cardona-Rodriguez, Jesus Duenas Galvan, Madeline Lilak, Alondra Mendiola, Cara Moritz, Evan Patchett, Jacob Schartz, Nathan Streeter, and Trenten Wellbrock.

Six teams from the Kansas BEST competition earn the right to attend the top competition at Denver, Colorado December 7 and 8. Salina South will be one of the six teams representing Kansas at the next level. Other schools from Kansas attending will be Wichita Homeschool, Augusta High School, Garden City High School, Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, and Rose Hill High School.

*\*Through local businesses' sponsorship (such as Spirit Aviation) WSU hosts the BEST competition which is free to all participating schools.*

