

*the* **THE LAKE AREA'S FULL COLOR NEWSPAPER**

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**February 13, 2013**

**Missouri Extension names FIRST LASER 3284 a national model**



Michelle Kroll, Camden County University of Missouri Extension, presents a check to Camdenton 4-H FIRST LASER head coach Mitch Comer and Assistant Coach Jim Jackson.

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

University of Missouri Extension has announced that the Camdenton 4-H LASER Robotics afterschool program is a national model for engaging students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Bill Pabst from the 4-H Center of Youth Development, University of Missouri in Columbia stated, "In addition to STEM topics, the program excels in teaching student's important life skills like teamwork, leadership, communication, and citizenship. With teams and groups for a wide range of ages, the program takes youth from initial interest in robotics to mastery of robotics and life skills.

"A climate of mentoring is a major key to their success. Committed teachers and volunteers encourage the high school participants to mentor each other and middle school and elementary school students. The adults and youth of the Camdenton 4-H LASER Robotics program have shared their knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm at state-wide and national events," Pabst added.

Michele Kroll of the Camden County University of Missouri Extension office met with members and mentors of the Camdenton 4-H LASER (Laker Afterschool Science Engineering & Robotics) team in January to present a generous check to support FIRST robotics competition season.

The FIRST LASER team was awarded the funds for helping to plan the first annual 4H Missouri Robotics Conference. Members of the LASER team from Oak Ridge Intermediate, Camdenton Middle School and Camdenton High School presented at the state conference. Attendees at the conference came from 13 states to learn more about robotics opportunities for students of all ages.

If you would like to help support the LASER robotic teams or would like more information, contact the Camdenton R-III Afterschool Services office at 573-346-9233.