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THE LAKE AREA'S FULL COLOR NEWSPAPER

LAKE TODAY

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**On Campus: Laker grad continue service to
Camdenton 4-H FIRST® LASER Robotics team, events**



Children at Lincoln School in Guadalajara, Mexico enjoy FIRST® LASER Robotics Trash Trek Challenge kits, materials and T-shirts they recently received from Camdenton's LASER 3284 team.

The Camdenton 4-H **FIRST®** LASER robotics team is expanding not only in Missouri and nation, but internationally.

Laker graduate and **FIRST®** volunteer Beka Sharp is currently teaching in Guadalajara, Mexico at Lincoln School, according to a news release. Lincoln school has approximately 400 students ranging from the ages of three to 19 (preschool through 12th grade). It is accredited in both the United States and in Mexico, meaning its students have classes in both English and Spanish throughout the school day. While Lincoln is located in Mexico, it has a uniquely diverse population with students and staff from South Africa, Australia, India, South Korea, England, Mexico and the United States, as well as many Central and South American countries, the news release said.

Lincoln's purpose is to work along with the families teaching their students in a successful academic environment through an English and Spanish program. The goal is that while receiving their education, their students are being prepared to apply what they are learning in serving others and making wise decisions throughout their life, the news release said. **FIRST®** robotics fits in with their important values while sharing "gracious professionalism" and "coopertition" through all activities.



Laker graduate and **FIRST®** volunteer Beka Sharp, right, holds a EV3 LEGO robotics kit and this year's competition field and table set up from the Trash Trek challenge, in which she took back to Mexico and share with fellow teachers and students at Lincoln School in Guadalajara, Mexico. Sharp is pictured with LASER 3284 Safety Captain Adrianna.

Sharp has volunteered and judged at the Mid-Missouri **FIRST®** LEGO® League qualifier hosted by Camdenton's LASER 3284 team and did her student teaching at Oakridge Intermediate in Camdenton, the news release said.

While Sharp returning home for Christmas, members of the LASER team provided a EV3 LEGO robotics kit and this year's competition field and table set up from the Trash Trek challenge for her to take back to Mexico and share with other teachers and students. The high school LASER team also provided LASER team shirts for the students. The team will be skypling and mentoring the FLL Mexico team via technology.

“We hope one day to get to meet the students in person at the World Championship!” said LASER president Kylie Becker in the news release. “The founder of **FIRST®**, Dean Kamen, has assigned homework for all **FIRST®** teams to help grow and expand the number of teams not only locally, but globally. LASER is excited to rise to this challenge!”

LASER officials indicated they are not stopping with Mexico and that we can look forward to more exciting news of how they will expand programs for youth in other parts of the world, the news release said.

The high school team is currently in the middle of their six-week, intense build season where they design, fabricate, wire, program and market a 120-pound robot to do a specified task in an alliance partnership with two other teams. The LASER 3284 team will compete in regionals in St. Louis and in Iowa hoping to qualify the sixth time for the world championship, which will take place in April at the Jones Dome.

If you are interested in becoming a team sponsor or mentoring any of the four progressions of **FIRST®** robotics, contact the Camdenton R-3 Afterschool Services office at 573-346-9233.