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April set to be *FIRST* Robotics Month



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Team members from the Central Missouri FIRST Affiliate and Camdenton FIRST LASER Robotics teamed up with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce to showcase the importance of STEM for Missouri's future workforce.

Students from all four progressions of Camdenton FIRST LASER robotics and numerous other FIRST teams from around the state emerged on the Missouri Capitol to share FIRST robotics and STEM (Science, Technology, and Engineering & Math) with our state legislators and to showcase the variety of STEM classes and projects that are shaping Missouri's future workforce.

The Camdenton High School LASER team ran a mini tournament for FIRST LEGO League and demonstrated and shared information about FIRST robotics to attendees. The LASER team met with Governor Parson where he presented a proclamation declaring April as FIRST Robotics month in Missouri at the request of LASER 3284. LASER annually works with the Governor to secure a proclamation to showcase FIRST and other STEM programs.

While visiting with the Governor students from grades K-12 shared what they learn while being on a FIRST team and how they gain not only technical skills but also essential skills like teamwork, collaboration, and critical thinking and communication skills. They also discussed how FIRST robotics not only prepares you to attend four year colleges, but it also helps students to gain skills so they can enter the world of work upon graduation and fill much needed gaps for skilled workers in manufacturing, machining and welding.

In addition, the students also spent time with and met our new State Representative, Suzie Pollock, from District 123. They shared their passion for FIRST and demonstrated all progressions of FIRST. For more information about FIRST, please visit the LASER webpage at www.laser3284.org.