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## **BENZIE CENTRAL STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS AT THE MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

*Two Local Teams Secure a Spot at the REC Foundation's VEX Robotics World Championship*

**Benzonia, MI March 2024** – Benzie Central students from Perpetual, VEX Robotics Competition team 74485B, and Four-Dimensional, VEX IQ Robotics Competition team 74484A, secured the Design Award and were Teamwork Champions at the VEX Robotics Competition and VEX IQ Robotics Competition that took place at Kettering University and Monroe County Community College these past few weekends. Students competed with and against 140 teams from across Michigan. The action-packed days required high school students to execute the 2023-2024 VEX Robotics Competition game, [Over Under](#), and middle school students to compete in the VEX IQ Robotics Competition game, [Full Volume](#), presented by the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation.

As Design Award winners and Teamwork Champion recipients, the teams have qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas Texas at the end of April and early May.

Benzie Central's VEX Robotics Competition team is comprised of seniors Emmett Jaquish and Evan Chandler. The VEX IQ Robotics Competition team is comprised of 8th-grade students Wyatt Jaquish, Victor Johnson, and Dylan Chard-Lopez. To prepare for the tournament, the group worked together to design, build, and program a robot using [VEX V5](#) and [VEX IQ](#), that could quickly and efficiently solve specific challenges that come with playing the 2023-2024 VEX Robotics Competition game, *Over Under* and the VEX IQ Robotics Competition game, *Full Volume*.

Each week, the students work after school to build these semi-autonomous machines. An equally important set of skills is learned through the competition -- communication, project management, time management, and teamwork.

Marc Alderman, the team's coach said, "I am so proud and excited for these young men and all they have accomplished. Perpetual is the first high school team from Benzie Central and Husky Robotics to advance to VEX Worlds. This has been senior Emmett Jaquish's goal ever since he started with the program in 7th grade. He now has a very capable partner in Evan Chandler and they have met that goal by having the best Engineering Notebook in the state along with a VERY competitive robot. This is the second year in a row that middle school team 74484A has advanced to the VEX World Championships. This year they have been a solid contender in all of the tournaments they have

attended and have peaked at the right time winning not only the prestigious judged [Think Award](#) for “effective and consistent use of coding techniques and programming design solutions” but also earning the Teamwork Championship spot. I am excited to see how they will do next year on the Husky Robotics High School VRC team.”

Husky Robotics teams meet after school two days a week during the regular season and three days a week in the lead-up to the State Championship. These practice days at the school are only a small fraction of the time the teams put into their robots as team members work at home on both the robots and their Engineering Notebooks. Between the two teams well over 1000 hours of development time has taken place. The students learn about electronics, programming, mechanical systems, 3D CAD, and the design process.

Team captain Emmett Jaquish said he was proud of his peer's perseverance and accomplishments. “Our primary goal was to qualify for the World Championship. Everything we did the entire season was based on this goal. Luckily, all the hard work paid off and we managed to make it happen. It was our strategically simple, unique, robust, and effective design combined with constant optimization of our Robot Skills Challenge strategy and programming that allowed us to pull off such an achievement.” Both Emmett and Evan will be going to University next year to study engineering with several top-notch schools competing for their admittance.

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation manages the VEX Robotics Competition, which thousands of schools participate in around the world each year. Dan Mantz, CEO of the REC Foundation, said, “As an experienced robotics mentor, I’ve seen firsthand the engineering skill and leadership expertise that students gain by participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. It’s an experience that will stay with them long after their school days are over, offering a new appreciation for STEM and laying a strong foundation of critical problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.”

Perpetual and Four-Dimensional will be competing in the upcoming VEX Robotics World Championship on April 25-27 and May 1-3 at the Kay Baily Hutchinson Convention Center in Dallas, TX. The event is open and free for media, families, and other community members to attend.

Both teams are raising funds to help cover the cost of registration, hotel stays, transportation, and food. Limited edition Husky Robotics clothing can be purchased through Kel Graphics at <https://benzie-central-husky-robotics-apparel.spiritsale.com/> or by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer. A portion of each sale will go directly to supporting Husky Robotics. The clothing store is open until April 1st. Individual and corporate sponsorships are also available. Interested individuals and companies can contact Coach Alderman for more information.

The VEX Robotics World Championship is the culmination of a series of VEX Robotics Competitions taking place internationally throughout the year. VEX Competitions are recognized as the largest and fastest-growing competitive robotics programs for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and college-aged students around the world. There are more than 23,000 VEX teams from 58 countries that participate in over 2,300 events worldwide. The competition season culminates each spring, with VEX Robotics World Championship, a highly anticipated event that unites top qualifying teams from local, state, regional, and international VEX Robotics Competitions to crown World Champions. More information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at [roboticseducation.org](http://roboticseducation.org).

**About the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation**

[The Robotics Education & Competition \(REC\) Foundation](#)'s mission is to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on, affordable, and sustainable robotics engineering programs.

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For more information, additional questions, or to set up an interview, please contact Marc Alderman using the contact information at the top of this press release.