



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 13, 2015**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

**BILL BARNES, CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
517-541-5601**

---

**Charlotte High School Represents Mid-Michigan in the National FIRST Robotics Competition  
Championship**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>, 609 FIRST Robotics teams from around the world will descend upon the Edwards Jones Dome in St. Louis, Missouri for the FIRST Robotics Competition Championships. Earning their place in the prestigious event through points earned in various district competitions and the FIRST in Michigan State Championships, these teams have designed, built, and programmed working robots that are able to complete the complex task of moving and stacking totes and barrels in a fast paced, arena format, working with and against other teams to accomplish their goals. 79 of Michigan's 347 teams earned enough points and awards to earn an invitation, and among them was Charlotte High School's rookie team, the Obots.



As the only team from the Lansing area, and one of only a handful of first year teams statewide to make the cut, the Charlotte High School Obots will have the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership in ingenuity, engineering, creativity, and problem solving as they match their skills with high schools from around the world. It is an honor for any of the 79 teams who made the cut to go on to this next level of competition, but for the Obots, it is proof that they have the ability to compete with, and succeed with, the best young engineering minds in the world.

The team earned a spot in last weekend's FIRST in Michigan State Championships through their strong showing at events in Howell and East Kentwood, including earning the Highest Rookie Seed Award in Howell and finding themselves as a district event finalist in East Kentwood. They then competed well in the state championship, finishing the season ranked 74<sup>th</sup> in the field of 347 statewide, a ranking which qualified them for the FIRST Robotics Competition Championships in St. Louis. Led by CHS science teacher Marlo Wiltse, her husband and DartContainer engineer Don Wiltse, and community

mentor and Spartan Motors engineer Aaron Layos, the Obots are comprised of future engineers, problem solvers, artists, and visionaries who have dedicated countless hours and efforts to build not only a robot, but the skills they need for their future careers.

The Obots' success is owed to the hard work, dedication, and ingenuity of the team and the mentors, and represents a key focus for Charlotte Public Schools. As one piece of a broader Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math focus, the FIRST Robotics team works in conjunction with other programs like Project Lead the Way and Lego robotics teams that exist throughout the curriculum at CPS to help propel its students into the college realities and job markets of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the programs build, so too will the success of the Obots. And, with an invitation to the world class FIRST Robotics Competition Championships in its first year, Charlotte High School's robotics team has set the bar pretty high.

For more information on the Obots or to view its sponsor list please visit the Obot team website at <http://charlotteobots.wix.com/robotics>. If you would like to make a donation or become a sponsor, click on the *Contact* link on the homepage, and include *Donation* or *Sponsorship*, or call Charlotte Public Schools administrative offices at 517-541-5109. Go Orioles! Go Obots!