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BLACK MEN
of GREATER CHARLOTTE

Role models for the next generation.

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100 Black Men of Charlotte's Autonomous Rex Advances to NC FIRST State Championship

Finals to be held at North Carolina A&T State University

On Sunday, January 31, 2016, 16 teams competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifier tournament held at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. At the conclusion of the event, the "Autonomous Rex" team from 100 Black Men of Greater Charlotte's Movement of Youth Program was selected to compete in the State tournament on February 20, 2016, at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro. This honor is awarded to the top 4 teams competing in each qualifying event.

The team won the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, which celebrates a team that not only thinks outside the box, but also has the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to life. This judged award is given to the team that has the most innovative and creative robot design solution to any or all specific field elements or components in the FTC game.

The team also received recognition for inspiring their local community as co-hosts for the first ever FTC Qualifying tournament in Charlotte, held at ImaginOn in January.

FTC is a component of the US FIRST robotics program for students in grades 6–12. Teams meet in head to head competition, having 10 weeks to design, build and program their robots.

N.C. A&T's College of Engineering serves as the affiliate partner for the State and manages all regional and state competitions for NC FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and NC FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC).

For details about *FIRST* Tech Challenge and *FIRST* LEGO League, contact Dr. Kory Bennett, Director for Robotics Outreach at fristrob@ncat.edu or (336) 285-4990. To learn more about FLL and FTC in North Carolina, visit www.nc-fll.com and www.nc-ftc.com. To learn more about FIRST, visit www.usfirst.org.

The 100 Black Men of Greater Charlotte is a brotherhood of leaders enriching the lives of African American youth through mentoring, education, health & wellness and economic development. Visit www.100blackmenofcharlotte.org or call (704) 375-7300 for more information about the organization.

Photo: back row l-r: Coach Briant Sowell, Menelek Simons, Zion Dailey, Johnny Houston, James Parker, Lead Coach Robert Hillman; front row: Charles Benton, Aaron Braxton, Jaleel Brown, Elijah Logan; missing – Gary Mitchell, Austin Thomas, Chris Virella, Coach Michael Guerin, Coach Richard Van Dyke, Coach Chris Dailey and Coach Albert Miller.

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