



Why BEST and Why Now?

A Program Overview for STEM and
Workforce Development Stakeholders

In conjunction with the
2011 BEST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Who

Representatives from Business & Industry; Government; Foundations; Economic, Community, and Workforce Development Interests; Colleges & Universities; K-12 Education; Professional Organizations and Associations
... and other stakeholders in the future of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and workforce development

What

The program is an introduction to BEST ("Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology") Robotics, Inc., a uniquely effective informal STEM education program for middle and high schools. Our grassroots, volunteer-run and community-based program currently has 47 licensed program sites ("hubs") in 16 states. We welcome other colleges, universities, and organizations to start hubs, as well.

BEST excels at inspiring students to pursue STEM careers through participation in a high-energy, sports-like, real-world robotics competition. Besides designing and building robots, student teams develop project engineering notebooks, marketing presentations, and team exhibits.

One of the largest national robotics programs in the U.S., **BEST is the only one that is free to schools** – there are no fees, and all robotics equipment and materials are provided at no-cost. **BEST is open to any school, regardless of size, type, location, or socioeconomic status.**

When

Friday, July 22, Noon – 6:00 pm, Auburn University Student Center

Why

BEST unlocks students' imaginations and helps them discover their potential. They learn how to apply science and math in solving complex, real-world engineering challenges. They become competent and confident in problem-solving, decision-making, and working as part of a team. It helps students develop the skills that industry needs in its future workforce.

In many respects, BEST is an effective K-12 workforce development program, *just cleverly disguised as a robotics competition*. [Shhhh! Don't tell our kids – they think they're just having fun!]

We invite you to come learn more about BEST and how your organization can become part of this vital, much-needed national program.

Schedule

Noon – 1:30 pm	Luncheon with Conference Attendees
1:30 – 3:00	Program Overview and Testimonials
3:00 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 5:00	Impact on K-12 Education and Workforce Development
5:00 – 6:00	Conference Reception

Guests are invited and encouraged to attend the Conference Banquet, 6:00 – 8:00. More information on page 2.