

By: Representative R. Scott Richardson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY ROBOTICS CLUB FOR WINNING THE TOURNAMENT CHAMPION AND INNOVATE AWARDS AT THE 2025 TEXAS STATE VEX U TOURNAMENT.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY ROBOTICS CLUB FOR WINNING THE TOURNAMENT CHAMPION AND INNOVATE AWARDS AT THE 2025 TEXAS STATE VEX U TOURNAMENT.

WHEREAS, the Robotics Club of Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas, earned the Tournament Champion and Innovate Awards at the 2025 Texas State VEX U Tournament held at the Clear Creek Independent School District Robotics Event Center in Houston, Texas, on February 21-22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, out of fifteen (15) competing teams, only two (2) other teams won multiple awards at the tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Tech University Robotics Club fabricated some components using an on-campus shop and also three-dimensional printers, and they had to program the robot for an autonomous portion of the tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Innovate Award recognizes an effective and well-documented design process for a novel aspect of a team's robot design or gameplay



strategy, and the submission of an Engineering Notebook thoroughly documenting the development of this unique attribute is a requirement; and

WHEREAS, based upon its performance at the tournament, the Arkansas Tech University Robotics Club has qualified for its third consecutive invitation to compete in the VEX U World Championship, and this is one (1) of only twenty-four (24) automatic invitations awarded to United States-based universities for this competition; and

WHEREAS, last year, the Arkansas Tech University Robotics Club advanced through the qualification stage to reach the elimination round at the VEX U Robotics World Championship and completed the 2023-2024 robotics season with a top four (4) global skills ranking; and

WHEREAS, members of the 2024-2025 Arkansas Tech University Robotics Club are club president Hunter Mathis of Hope, club vice president Juan Leon of Hope, club secretary Braden Pierce of Bryant, club treasurer Ryan Nanthalangsy of Sheridan, club outreach director Everett Otis of Conway, Brady Bray of Greenwood, Preston Diehl of Conway, Jason "Collin" Easterling of Hope, Brandon Gallegos of Hope, Bo Allen Huey of Conway, Kavin Kannangara of Bentonville, Judit Morales-Mora of Russellville, Brody Peterson of Bentonville, Raul Hurtado of Conway, and Cooper Stober of Bentonville; and

WHEREAS, club president Hunter Mathis stated of the team, "This year's team is comprised of both upper and lower classmen who have dedicated countless hours to building, programming, and piloting the most competitive robots ATU has ever produced. This year alone, the ATU Robotics Club members have invested over 10,000 total hours towards our success"; and

WHEREAS, the team was led by club sponsor Jacob Weidenfeller of Harrison and club cosponsor Steve Ward of Dover,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the Arkansas Tech University Robotics Club for winning the Tournament Champion and Innovate Awards at the 2025 Texas State VEX U Tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to club sponsor Jacob Weidenfeller by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.