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## New College Institute's robotics team wins first place at district competition



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RICHMOND – New College Institute's FIRST® Robotics Team 1262 is a member of the winning alliance at this year's first competition. NCI's STAGS, Students Technologically Advancing for Greater Success, attended the district robotics competition in Glen Allen, VA, March 1-3.

In addition to being a member of the winning alliance at the FIRST® Robotics competition in Glen Allen, VA Team 1262 also the winner of the *Safety of the Day Award*, *Overall Safety Award Runner-Up*, and the *Imagery Award*. The *Imagery Award* celebrates the attractiveness in engineering and visual aesthetic integration of machine and team appearance.

NCI's Team 1262 is one of 127 robotics teams that compete in FIRST® Chesapeake which includes teams from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

FIRST® Robotics provides high school students the opportunity to work side by side with community and industry professionals to develop a competition robot in answer to a complex engineering challenge that looks and plays like a sporting event.

"Over the weekend, we had to overcome the learning curve that comes with the FIRST® competition; but after that, I felt that our team really came together to play perfectly. We were able to get very far not only from what we did on the field but also in the pit and stands," said Team 1262 member Blake Wilson.

NCI's Team 1262 is comprised of eighteen local students from Martinsville and Henry County. They are supported by many industry partners and ten adult mentors.

"I am extremely proud of the students on Team 1262. They worked very hard and each member played a specific role that led to our being a member of the winning alliance at the FIRST Chesapeake event this past weekend. Also, this would have never happened without the many hours volunteered by our adult mentors. It is a true team effort and I look forward to the community learning more about the STAGS," said Coach Brian Pace, NCI's Coordinator of Advanced Manufacturing.

Team 1262's next competition will be March 30-31 in Blacksburg, VA.

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