



## **Bibb County School District**

**Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs**

484 Mulberry Street, Suite 365, Macon, Georgia 31201, (478) 765-8548

<http://www.bcsdk12.net>

**Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Daryl Morton**  
*Board President*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT

Stephanie Hartley (478) 765-8620

### **BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ROBOTICS TEAM WINS STATE, ADVANCES TO WORLD COMPETITION IN HOUSTON, TEXAS**

April 9, 2017

MACON, GA – The Bibb County School District's robotics team, Team RoboBibb, will travel to Houston, Texas, this month to compete in the 2017 FIRST Championship Conference after winning the 2017 Peachtree District State Championship in Athens this weekend. The world championship will take place in Texas on April 19-22.

Team RoboBobb is comprised of about 40 students from Central, Howard, Northeast, Rutland, Westside and the Academy for Classical Education (ACE). Fourteen upper-class students from Central, Howard and Rutland High Schools were selected to represent the team at state competition. Lead Advisor Carole Myers of Howard High, and team advisors Diane Byington of Rutland High, Vanessa Pabalan of Rutland High, and Wylene Dickey of Central High joined them at competition.

The District's high school robotics team participated in its first season of competition during the 2013-2014 school year. Community partners from the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Mercer University joined the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department that year to create a vision in which students from all Bibb County public high schools would have the chance to participate in an exciting and valuable STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative. The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams comprised of high school aged students are challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It is about as close to real-world engineering as a high school student can get.

During the team's first year, it was invited to participate in the world championship in St. Louis, Mo., after being named the Rookie All-Star Winner during state competition. The team also was honored as the "Highest Rookie Seed" at that competition.

**-MORE-**

*Vision: Each student demonstrates strength of character and is college or career ready.  
Mission: The Bibb County School District will develop a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.*

This year, the state competition was held at the University of Georgia in Athens on April 5-8. A different challenge theme is presented each year and teams are allowed 6 weeks to design and build their robot. The theme for this year's challenge was Steamworks.

"The robot that they designed and built performs quickly and consistently, which is the primary reason for our success this season," Myers said. "During our 6-week build season, we met Monday through Thursday for 3-4 hours and Saturday for 5-6 hours. We have a core group of students who have been with our team for two or more years, which has given us the consistency and skill sets necessary to build a strong robot."

Myers has been Lead Advisor for the team for two years and is a Computer Science teacher at Howard High School. She has about 10 years of experience with FIRST Robotics Competitions.

"It was a very overwhelming experience, to say the least. Going in, I knew that we had a solid robot and a good team of students, but first place was not something I considered possible. Our competition was strong – the Atlanta teams, in particular, have done this for a while and have more experience in terms of students and mentors. The reality is that this was quite an accomplishment," Myers said.

Follow the team on Facebook as they prepare for world competition and travel to Houston, Texas, at [www.facebook.com/teamrobobibb](http://www.facebook.com/teamrobobibb). If you would like to help the team travel to world competition, please email CTAE Director Dr. Cassandra Washington at [Cassandra.Washington@bcsdk12.net](mailto:Cassandra.Washington@bcsdk12.net).

**XXXXX**