



The introduction at the award ceremony said it all: "Representing the Great State of Minnesota, team 3423, the DITSci Chx." The Chx did their state proud at the *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) United States Open Robotics Competition held May 7-9.

Team DITSci Chx consists of Abby Hystad, Alyssa Maes and Ann and Beth Harlos, all currently 6th graders at Oak Point. This is their third year in FLL and first attending a national tournament.

The tournament, held in Dayton, Ohio, hosted sixty of the best LEGO robotics teams from across the nation. Team DITSci Chx was graded "Excellent" in every scoring category and won a 2nd place trophy for their Creative Research Presentation. Their research solution was about using wasted rooftop space on city buildings to host greenhouse fruit and vegetable farms. The farms would decrease dependence on outside food sources, provide new employment opportunities, save energy and reduce the urban heat island effect.

FIRST LEGO League is a world wide robotics competition for kids ages 9 – 14. Groups of up to ten children build and program robots to complete multiple tasks in a timed competition. This year 289 teams from all around Minnesota competed at qualifying tournaments held in November and December. Sixty seven teams advanced through the qualifying tournaments to the State Championship held in January. State champions received invitations to the US Open, or the World Festival held in Atlanta in April.

Teams are already forming for next year's competition. FLL is a great way to get kids interested in science, technology, engineering and math. Participants also learn important teamwork, organization and time management skills. Get more information about FLL at www.hightechkids.org.

Submitted by: Dean Hystad, DITSci Chx coach
