

# Heartland BEST 2004

@ Northwestern Oklahoma State University



DATE: August 16, 2004

TO: High School Principals, and Science, Math, and Technology Teachers

I would like to share some information about the Heartland BEST program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. (attached is a promotional flyers about the competition) BEST stands for Boosting Engineering Science and Technology and is a high school robot building competition. The **BEST** program is a non-profit operation that offers an impressionable "high-tech" experience to middle school and high school students *at no cost to the students or schools*.

Started in 1993, the BEST program is based on an annual robotics competition of teams from high schools and middle schools across the nation. It is designed to teach teamwork, problem solving, project management, and pride in task completion within the constraints of a short time period and limited physical resources. Through partnerships of participating schools with corporate sponsors, youth teams are supported by mentors who serve as positive role models for the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technologists. The goal is to demonstrate the excitement of advanced technical careers to young people who are nearing decisions on college plans. Team membership is open to all interested students, and participation is without fee to the students or the schools.

We at **Heartland BEST** truly feel this is a great educational opportunity for students as they learn about the fields of engineering, science, and technology. *We encourage you or a teacher from your school to register a team.* Most teams are led by high school science or math teachers, and additionally, teams are often helped and guided by professional mentors in the community.

The dates for Heartland BEST 2004 are:

**KICKOFF – September 11, 2004 @ NWOSU, Alva.** At kickoff the game rules are explained and teams receive their kit of materials to build the robot.

**MALL DAY – October 16, 2004 @ the Oakwood Mall, Enid.** Game field is set up for practice.

**GAME DAY – October 23, 2004 @ NWOSU, Alva.** Teams compete for several awards and the chance to advance to the regional robotics championships in Dallas, TX.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions. Teams can register via the web at <http://www.nwosu.edu/BEST> Teams currently registered with Heartland BEST include: Alva, Blackwell, Buffalo, Cheyenne, Freedom, Kingston, Putnam City, Shattuck, Taloga, and Vici.

Sincerely,

Tim Maharry – Heartland BEST Director  
Alva, OK 73717  
(580) 327-8583 [tjmaharry@nwosu.edu](mailto:tjmaharry@nwosu.edu)