

DATE: August 11, 2004

TO: High School Principals, Science and Technology Teachers

I would like to share some information about the Heartland BEST program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. BEST stands for Boosting Engineering Science and Technology and is a high school robotics competition. The **BEST** program is a prestigious 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*. All building materials and events are **FREE of charge**. Enclosed are several promotional flyers about the competition for information and distribution to interested students and teachers.

Started in 1993, the BEST program is an annual robotics competition for 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 **FREE** for students and participating 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 your school to consider registering a team.* Teams are required to have at least one teacher as a coach and additionally, are often helped and guided by professional mentors from the local community. Below are the dates for Heartland BEST 2004:

**KICKOFF – September 11, 2004** at 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** at Oakwood Mall, Enid. The game field is set up for practice.

**GAME DAY – October 23, 2004** at 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. If you have any questions at all, I invite you to contact me via phone or email at your earliest convenience. Registration is on the web at <http://www.nwosu.edu/BEST>. Teams currently registered with Heartland BEST include: Alva, Blackwell, Buffalo, Cheyenne, Freedom, Kingston, Putnam City, Shattuck, and Vici.

Sincerely,

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