



Robofest eNewsletter 08-21-23

(1) Robofest Staff Updates

(2) State of Michigan 99h Robotics Competition Grant now includes Robofest

(3) 2024 Season Kickoff and World Championship Dates Announced

(4) Annual Report and Wrap Up Video Posted

(5) Seeking Technical Committee Members for 2023-2024 Season

(6) Seeking Site Hosts for 2024 Competitions

Note: All times are listed in Eastern Time unless noted

(1) Robofest Staff Updates

The Robofest team has made some staffing changes over the summer and we are happy to announce the following:

- **Prof. Elmer Santos** is now the Director of Robofest and an LTU Adjunct professor of Computer Science
- **Shannan Palonis** is now Robofest Assistant Director
- **Pam Sparks** will continue her valuable role as Robofest Coordinator (PT)
- **Dr. CJ Chung** will chair a newly formed a Robofest Executive Council, comprised of LTU Math and Computer Science professors
- **Dr. Chris Cartwright** has moved from the position of Robofest Director to Robofest Executive Council Member
- **Dr. Eric Martinson**, Associate Professor of Computer Science has joined the Robofest Executive Council

(2) State of Michigan 99h Robotics Competition Grant now includes Robofest

Robofest is an official program provider for the Michigan Department of Education 99h Robotics Competition Grant which provides funding to Public School Districts, Intermediate School Districts, and Nonpublic Schools to participate in Robofest. Grants for 2023/2024 teams (between \$500 and \$1,200) and Coach Stipends (between \$1,000 and \$1,500) will be available for Robofest teams that are pre-registered in the Robofest Registration system by October 31, 2023. More information and detailed instructions will be provided by the Michigan Department of Education after September 8.

(3) 2024 Season Kickoff and World Championship Dates Announced (Tentative)

The Robofest 2024 Season International Rules will be released on Saturday, September 30, 2023. We will host a series of kickoff meetings to review the rules for clarification prior to the US release in November. All rules will be finalized in January 2024.

The kickoff meetings will be held:

Friday, October 6, 2023 9:00am ~ 10:30am (Zoom only)

Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:00pm ~ 8:30pm (In person and Zoom)

Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:00am ~ 11:30 am (In person and Zoom)

The 25th Robofest World Championship will be hosted on the campus of Lawrence Technological University on **May 9, 10 and 11, 2024**

(4) Annual Report and Wrap Up Video Posted

We recently hosted an appreciation event for local Coaches, Site Hosts, Volunteers and Sponsors to review the 2022-2023 Robofest Annual Report, Analysis Report and Wrap Up Video. The presentation, reports and a link to the video have been posted to the "What's New" section on the Robofest.net home page. We would like to thank everyone that made the season a success and hope you enjoy reading and watching.

(5) Seeking Technical Committee Members for 2023-2024 Season

Robofest is seeking volunteers to serve on technical committees for competition categories in this 2023-2024 season. Each committee will define/design/refine competition rules and members will be involved in judging World Championship events as well as qualifying competitions. Attendance at a monthly in-person or Zoom meeting is expected throughout the season. A short Bio of each committee member will be posted on the Robofest website. If you would like to be part of the organization to help bring the Robofest opportunity to more students around the world, register for a committee at: <https://forms.gle/PV5c99Zv47iPGP587>

(6) Seeking Site Hosts for Competitions

Robofest is seeking site hosts for the 2023-2024 Competition Season for Robofest Game and Exhibition Qualifiers as well as Open events. We hope to have all sites registered and ready for team registration in early November 2023. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at robofest@ltu.edu or visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts> for more information or to download the application.

Lawrence Technological University / Robofest / J-233 / 21000 W. Ten Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48075

Prof Elmer Santos, Director, esantos@ltu.edu

Shannan Palonis, Assistant Director, spalonis@ltu.edu

Pam Sparks, Coordinator, psparks@ltu.edu

Dr. CJ Chung, Advisory Board Chairperson (Volunteer), cchung@ltu.edu

<http://www.robofest.net>

<http://facebook.com/robofest>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/robofest-official>