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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **Urban Students Prepare for FIRST South Florida Robotics Competition; Technology and Engineering Event to Inspire Future Inventors**

**Miami, FL** – When students in The On Foundation flock to movie theaters to view the ratings blockbuster *RoboCop*, the thought of outfitting a human with robotic features will not be a far-fetched idea for them. These tweenagers and teenagers are already developing electrical and mechanical devices in free classes sponsored by The On It Foundation from grant awards by NASA Robotics Alliance Project and Best Buy Children’s Foundation. They will put their skills to the test in an upcoming competition on April 3-5, 2014, when Team ‘On It’ will compete against their peers during the South Florida Regional FIRST Robotic Competition at the Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Boulevard, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

“Essentially, we create a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning environment,” said Calvetta Phair, founder and coordinator of The On It Foundation. “We’ve been very successful at training students to focus on the fun and functionality of robotics, instead of harping on the fact that they are actually learning Physics and Calculus.”

According to Phair, this teaching method has helped them overcome their fears about the complexity of Engineering and presenting STEM during ‘community outreach’ events has honed their presentation skills. The On It Foundation’s team is open to all students 14+ and free to all recipients. A Lego curriculum is provided to students ages 6-13.

“Winning a medal in this year’s competition is a great goal, but it is not our main objective,” added Phair. “I want to show these apprentices that they have the ability to compete with students internationally, and can create inventions that will help revolutionize this world.”

The On It Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization based in Miami, Florida. Its working goal is to bridge the technology gap by providing free computers and 21st Century skill sets to disadvantaged households with children in grades K-12 that meet the required income guidelines. Since its inception, The On It Foundation has donated more than 2,000 free computers, and has provided more than 7,500 volunteer hours of computer training to the recipients of those computers. The On It Foundation is sponsored in part by NASA and Best Buy. Organizers are currently accepting additional sponsor donations to continue its mission throughout South Florida.

**[www.TheOnItFoundation.org](http://www.TheOnItFoundation.org)**