



# **NEWS RELEASE**

---

**Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328**  
Rhonda Lessel, Director | School & Community Services | Ph: 248.706.4867 | Fx: 248.706.4888

## **Waterford Kettering High School's FIRST Robotics Team 3098 Wins State Championship *Heading to World Championship in Detroit***

**April 19, 2018, Waterford, Mich.** – Waterford Kettering High School's FIRST Robotics Team 3098 won the FIRST® Robotics State Competition with their alliance partners 4003, Trisonics from Allendale and Jenison High School, and 2586 from Calumet High School. In addition, Kettering's team won the Innovation in Controls Award, was the Ford Division winner, and is ranked second among 508 teams in the State. Only the top 161 FIRST Robotics teams from Michigan competed at Saginaw Valley State University in this event.

*FIRST* Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. To meet a new challenge each year, teams hone teamwork skills, design, build, and program a robot during six weeks to perform tasks against a field of competitors, create a team "brand," and raise needed funds. Robotics is designed to help students discover how interesting and rewarding careers in engineering and science can be.

After qualification matches, 3098 finished seventh in the Ford Division. Once playoff alliance sections started, team 3098 joined the number three alliance of team 4003, Trisonics, from Allendale and Jenison High School. In the second round of robot selection, 4003 and 3098 selected team 2586, the Copper Bots from Calumet High School.

-more-

Once each division had their winning alliance, 3098, 4003, and 2586 moved to the Michigan State Semifinal where they played the winners of the Consumers Energy Division. The alliance went to three matches and came out the victors. Kettering's alliance then moved to the State Championship Finals. Kettering's alliance took on the winners of the DTE Energy Division, which consisted of Team 67 from Huron Valley Schools, 3707 from Brighton High School, and team 3535 from Lapeer Education and Tech Center. The team went to three matches and won the Michigan State Championship.

Kettering's FIRST Robotics Team 3098 consists of 40 students from Kettering and 12 mentors. The team is led by Lead Mentor/Teacher Steve Smitka. They will be competing April 26-28 at the FIRST World Championship in Detroit at the Cobo Center.

The team is sponsored by General Motors, DENSO, Plastic Omnium, FCA Foundation, Young Basile, Atlas Copco, Faurecia, JVIS USA LLC, Kawasaki Robotics, Hirotec America, Fire Defense Equipment Company Inc., Northern Controls Group Inc. McLaren, DXC Technology, Morrell, Square One Education Network, American MSC, CES, and the Butchwhacker.

###