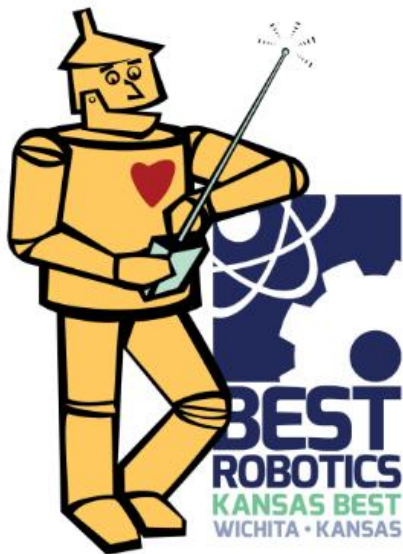


FACToids

Game Day
November 1 2025



#BESTRobotics
@BESTRobotics
@Kansas BEST Robotics



Kansas BEST is made possible by
dedicated volunteers,
loyal sponsors,
the WSU College of Engineering
and the
Kansas BEST Steering Committee

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Anthony Muscat, Dean,
Terrance Williams, Director Recruitment and Outreach,
and the WSU College of Engineering
for full support of Kansas BEST.

WSU Foundation,
for enlisting Kansas BEST sponsors.

Additional volunteers for their invaluable contributions.



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Schedule Of Events

November 1, 2025

Wichita State University Charles Koch Arena

Times are approximate

- 7:00 a.m.** Team Registration, Check-In, Team Photos
- 8:45 a.m.** Pit/Driver Meeting
- 9:00 a.m.** Opening Ceremony
- 9:30 a.m.** Seeding Competition
(6 matches, randomly-selected opponents)
- 2:00 p.m.** Wildcard Match
- 2:30 p.m.** Top 8 teams play 6 Semi-final matches
- 3:00 p.m.** Top 4 teams play 3 Final matches
- 3:30 p.m.** Awards Ceremony
- 4:00 p.m.** Conclusion of Game Day Activities

2025 Kansas BEST Sponsors

Kansas BEST gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship of these organizations:

LOCAL PARTNERS

Wichita State University College of Engineering
Wichita State University Barton School of Business

NATIONAL SPONSORS

Vex Robotics | Mathworks
Tennessee Valley Robotics | igus
Dassault Systems Solidworks
PRUSA Research |

KANSAS BEST LOCAL SPONSORS

Engineers Foundation of Kansas (ELK)
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE)

KANSAS BEST FRIENDS

WSU Project Innovation Hub
Bryan Jaax

NATIONAL CORPORATE PARTNER



MathWorks®

Boosting Engineering, Science & Technology™



The BEST Concept

The BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology™) mission is to engage and excite students about engineering, science, and technology as well as inspire them to pursue careers in these field. BEST is designed to encourage youth through participation in a sports-like contest, in which middle and high school students design and build a remote-controlled robot. Industry and education professionals volunteer as team mentors, providing professional expertise in the design and construction processes of the competition.

BEST students learn to analyze and solve problems using the Engineering Design Process, which helps students develop technological literacy skills—skills that industry seeks in its workforce. To simulate a “real world” business and engineering environment, some competition restrictions include:

- Short development time (eight weeks)
- Limited components (identical materials provided)
- Specific design requirements (size, weight, etc.)

BEST program goals are accomplished through participation in local “hub” competitions, of which Kansas BEST is one. Other hubs are located in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas. There are three regional championships in December, in which the top teams from each hub compete: Texas BEST Championship hosted by University of Texas at Dallas; South’s BEST Championship hosted by Auburn University; and Denver BEST hosted by Rocky Mtn BEST. Kansas BEST will send the top 5 teams to the Denver BEST Championship. These teams will receive stipends to attend the competition.

The BEST program receives vital support from school administrators and local businesses. Financial support is received from both individuals and industry.

For more information, visit these BEST websites:

Kansas: kansasbest.org | BEST Robotics, Inc.: www.bestinc.org

Facebook: [fb.com/Kansas BEST Robotics](https://fb.com/KansasBESTRobotics)

PRUSA

RESEARCH

by **JOSEF PRUSA**



2025 Game: “Factoids”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been science fiction for decades. Today many companies, such as IBM, Google, OpenAI, Nvidia and others, are actively developing artificial intelligence systems. BEST Robotics does not want to be left behind in this exciting endeavor and is looking to its many teams to develop and train an AI system. Teams are to build a robot which represents a pair of AI software systems. The first is a neural network constructor. Neural nets are the building blocks of AI, defining the connections from the inputs of the AI to the outputs of the AI. Use the robot to select the connection matrix and wire it up. The second is a “web crawler,” which searches the internet to find data that will be used to train the AI. BEST only wants to train their AI using the highest quality information available. Some sources of information (libraries and newspapers) contain more truth and fewer errors than other sources (social media sites). BEST wants a robot that can distinguish between fact and fiction. The robot’s twofold job is to build a neural network and to “crawl” the internet sites, collecting the TRUE factoids and ignoring the FALSE factoids.

Objectives

Design and build a robot capable of training your team’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) by performing the following tasks:

Data Collection

- Collect data elements from any of 4 distinct areas
- Sort data elements as TRUE or FALSE based on certain (physical) properties

Select/Build an AI Model

- Select a specific AI model to build/train (one of 3)
- Build a Neural Network AI model by connecting network Tiles to the available nodes

Train (LEARN)

- Feed the model as much TRUE data as possible to maximize the probability of success for the model

The tasks are to be performed by robotic methods.

Special thanks to WSU College of Engineering Ambassadors. They have supported us throughout the entire season, starting in March building a robot to take to Prototype Game, inspecting and testing motors, servos, and IR sensors for returnable kits, packing kits, setup and teardown for all our events, plus helping run various aspects of those events.

They have put in a lot of hours. They are:

Genaro Prado, Megan Mazzarella, Natalie McConico, Alex Troth, Yolanda Gonzalez, Alexia Vence, Jennifer Miranda, Ruby Forrester, Draden Vaughn, Benny Andress, Benjamin Lee, Jennifer Reeve, Stephanie Cruz Ponce, Jamil West, Frederick Kabangu, Finli Blackburn, Giovanni Garcia, Jonathan Wessel, Jose Michel-Cano, Darryl (Miles) Moorehead, Jeffrey Thomas, Shayde Ayers



**WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Team Names and Numbers

#	Team Name
351	Wichita Collegiate HS
352	Moundridge
354	Council Grove High School
355	Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School
358	Wichita Homeschool
359	Republic County High School
365	Quark Robotics - Rose Hill
366	Central Christian Academy
367	McHomes Homeschool Co-op ^{NEW}
368	USD 300 - South Central High School
370	Garden City High School
372	Rock Creek High School
376	Life Preparatory Academy
378	Valley Center High School
384	Berean Academy
388	Stafford
390	Wellington STEM ^{NEW}

Bold names are teams that are competing for the BEST Award

Game Officials

Masters of Ceremony	Jeffery Thomas Ruby Forrester
Staging	Paul Cook Kalvin Orellana
Check-in Compliance	John Matthew Ethan Lif Wyatt Smrcka
Floor Boss (Rules)	John Matthew
Pit Boss	Bryan Jaax
Referees	Scott Ricke, Head Referee Misti Burch Bryan Edwards Brandon McIntosh Talon Sullivan Tom Cornwall Nicholas Burgeson Amber Whittaker Stan Clemence
Scoring	Joel Cazares David Alexander
Head Judge	Kirsten Jensen

Kansas BEST Scholarship

The Kansas BEST steering group aims to motivate high school students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology. BEST provides a means to showcase opportunities at Wichita State University and encourage students to pursue engineering degrees within the WSU College of Engineering.

In 2000, the Bill Wilhelm Endowed Engineering Scholarship was established with unique eligibility requirements. To be a recipient of this scholarship, a student must be a past participant of Kansas BEST. In addition to this scholarship fund, the Kansas BEST Scholarship fund was created to support former BEST participants pursuing engineering degrees at WSU. Past recipients include:

2002 – Amanda Roeder	2014 – Joshua Albert and Mason Ryle
2003 – Leah Boundy	
2004 – Jenny Marshall	2015 – Johnny Marshall, Gabriel McGregor
2005 – Kevin Brauning	
2006 – Joey Marshall	2016 – Umama Ali
2007 – Michael Staab	2017 – Jessica Prudence
2008 – Brian Pham	2018 – Victoria Bishop
2009 – Ben Hayes	2019 – Jennifer Weddle
2010 – Cade Hiebsch	2020 – Jess Prudence
2011 – Kevin Brink	2021 – David Hathaway
2012 – Brett Harms and Nathan Albert	2022 – Jamey Marshall
2013 – Jeremy Marshall and Samuel Janssen	2023 – Calla Unruh
	2024 – Matthew Phan
	2025 – Ethan Lif

To learn more about these scholarship opportunities within the WSU College of Engineering and becoming a Wichita State Shocker, contact Terrance Williams at (316) 978-3159 or elizabeth.butler@wichita.edu.

BEST Award

Any high school team competing in the Kansas BEST Game competition is eligible for the BEST Award, which goes to the team that best embodies the concept of Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology™. In addition to the design, building and testing of the team's robot, this competition emphasizes the teamwork, sportsmanship, diversity, and school/community support necessary for success.

Materials must be the work of the students. Involvement of student journalists, photographers, artists, musicians (serving in auxiliary roles in support of their school's BEST team) is encouraged. Teams are evaluated in four categories:

- **Project Summary Notebook**, the documentation of the project including photographs, drawings, etc. must be submitted on Practice Day.
- **Marketing Presentation** given by each team within a 25-minute time frame to a panel of judges.
- **Team Exhibit/Interviews** of team promotional efforts for BEST within their school and community, and interviews to assess the students' enthusiasm/multi-grade level/student as prime designers and builders of their robot.
- **Robot Performance** based on total team points earned during the seeding competition.

BEST Award Judges

Project Summary Notebook

Lori Jenkins, John Huffman, Tom Gerlach, Carla Aldridge, Crystal Morgan, Charles Hemminway, Kathleen Barth, John Matthew, Lisa Riley, Clint Schneider, Linda Manfull

Marketing Oral Presentation

W. Frank Barton School of Business

Alexander Ziegler, Charles Martin, Lynn Matthews

Team Exhibit and Interviews

Alexander Ziegler, Jeremiah Schlittenhardt

Special Awards & Judges

Founders Award for Creative Design

Wyatt Smrcka, Ron Morgan

Robust Machine Award

Bryan Jaax

Spirit and Sportsmanship

WSU COE Ambassadors

Top Gun - awarded to the team that scores the most points in one match.

Team Rosters

Team #/School	351 Wichita Collegiate HS
Coach(es)	John Bullinger
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Ayush Bharati, Olivier Chocron, Ethan Gould, Melanie Reece, Melanie Reece, Jackson Rukes, LJ Varchavtchik	

Team #/School	352 Moundridge
Coach(es)	Tyler OConnor
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Cyrus Blough, Williams Broemmer, Jacob Elmore, Thomas Jenkins, Jordy Knoll, Tucker Llamas, Gentry Regier, Jayden Soukup, James Storer, Chase Strausz, Sam Strausz, Tanner Trevett, Tione Wilson	

Team #/School	354 Council Grove High School
Coach(es)	Tracie Schroeder
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Bryce Azbell, Zachary Brabb, Matthew Calmes, Harlie Falder, Casten Honer, Syllas Lira, Ruby McKnight, Landon Schroeck, Dustin Small, Elkan Spear, Elkan Spear, Kason Spear, Jackson Stecher, Logan Stockwell, Cole Weeks, Leo White	

Team #/School	355 Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School
Coach(es)	Marcus Carrillo
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Stephanie Alvarado, Marthien Dang, Michael DeVega, Carter Hansen, Christian Le, Maya Moore, Dalena Nguyen, Maika Nguyen, Vanessa Peek, Nevaeh Perez, Savannah Pham, Christian Romer, Nicholas Tran, Taylor Vu, Theodore Vu	

Team Rosters

Team #/School	358 Wichita Homeschool
Coach(es)	Cameron Heidrick Shannon Sherman
Mentor(s)	Cameron Heidrick Shannon Sherman
Team Members: Cooper Beasinger, Spencer Craft, Ethan Crow, Dawson Davis, Jackson Drouhard, Samuel Drouhard, Ian Elliott, Barrett Goff, Micah Gorman, Micah Gorman, Breauna Heidrick, Caden Heidrick, Samuel Heidrick, Andrew Johnson, Ezra Kelton, Kate Kirkwood, Will Kirkwood, Macallen Mages, Miles Mages, Leo Mays, Danielle Murfin, Jessica Murfin, Kathryn Pauls, Levi Preedy, Julia Schlittenhardt, Elizabeth Sherman, Jonathan Sherman, Ryan Speak, Addison Unger	

Team #/School	359 Republic County High School
Coach(es)	Jon Baxa
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Isaac Anderson, Carson Beavers, Riley Boyer, Kash Henke, Connor Martin, John Murdock, Korey Nutsch, Michael Pacht, Michael Pacht, Taylor Peters, Sawyer Stephens, Solly Vanouhlden, Solros Vanouhlden	

Team #/School	365 Quark Robotics - Rose Hill
Coach(es)	Ryan Hill Caitlin Martin
Mentor(s)	Jordan Martin
Team Members: Dean Barry, Peyton Bradford, Madix Depue, Caiden Grunder, Cameron Hurt, Mason Jewell, Phoebe Lemay, Ryan Leonard, Colton Morrow, Ethan Nelson, Mackenzie Obar, Vandyn Sims, Baylee Stafford, Xavier Stevens, Sagan Thumann, Breckin Warren	

Team Rosters

Team #/School	366 Central Christian Academy
Coach(es)	Becca Shideler Shawn Shideler
Mentor(s)	John Knowles Eric Mead Carolyn Mounce Aaron Teel
Team Members: Andrew Burchfiel, Jakaidyn Fishburn, Kyndall Goss, Josiah Harder, Isaac Harms, Audrey Hoover, Isaiah Kadrmas, Troy Knowles, Trevor Magana, Hayden Marker, Ethan Martinez Espinoza, Lincoln Mounce, Shelby Mounce, Emerson Murphy, Titus Murphy, Noah Schanbacher, Eziah Scott, Cason Shideler, Corra Shideler, Tessa Shideler, Emily Snyder, Tayla Teel, Riley Trudell, Ryker Van Dever, Nicole Weishaar	

Team #/School	367 McHomes Homeschool Co-op
Coach(es)	Catherine Zurcher
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Layton Albrecht, Peter Boyd, Eli Davies, Samuel Groening, Calvin Selley, Eivin Zurcher	

Team #/School	368 USD 300 - South Central High School
Coach(es)	Andi Dale
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Alyson Harrel, Thaydon Macias, Cheyenne McNeal, Jackson Myers, Chauncey Phillis	

Team Rosters

Team #/School	370 Garden City High School
Coach(es)	Jimmy Beard Scott Glass Garrett Runnion
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Lanz Altamirano, TJ Arwine, Samuel Cheney, Samuel Cheney, Kade Davis, Danny Doan, Amalie Garcia, Arianna Garcia, Ayden Griffin, Harley Hardy, Tucker Herring, Kei Kempis, Brayden Kimbrel, Luis Lozano, Gabriel Lumacang, Kale Mcwithe, Desmas Mitchell, William Reck, Tyler Richters, Hayden Schaffer, Ronald Scott, Robert Smith, Brenden Tuller, Izael Vigil, Abigail Wise	

Team #/School	372 Rock Creek High School
Coach(es)	Robert Thomas
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Timothy Redtzke, Gavin Roth, Deakin Swain, Merritt Swain, Anthony Thomas	

Team #/School	376 Life Preparatory Academy
Coach(es)	Ashley Erickson
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Jesse Allen, Henry Dang, Jordi de la Presa, Bentley Dunn, Khoi Nguyen Le, Jackson McColm, Josiah McColm, Sejune Oh, Jackson Rice, Henry Rotola, Jesse Wheaton, Ben White	

Team Rosters

Team #/School	378 Valley Center High School
Coach(es)	Sarah Card
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: jack clark, Camdyn Findley, Treyton Griffin, Amelia Harris, Griffin Kepley, Kalle Kohrs, Jackson Lakin, Owen Love, Andrew Lucero, Lane Madison, Elliott Medrano, Barry Mosqueda, Zaythan Rangel, Michael Ronald, Arianna Schuckman, Sydney Smith-Pfannenstiel, Jett Stockdale, Hailey Wade, Bladen Ward	

Team #/School	384 Berean Academy
Coach(es)	Seth Winzer
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Isaiah Anderson, Jonah Costello, Kesler Friesen, Connor Moran, Cecilly Poole-Walker, Luca Quentin	

Team #/School	388 Stafford
Coach(es)	Jeff Heminway Jennifer Heminway
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Conrad Allen, Kaisen Ford, Charlotte Huston, Jonas Lopez, Mason Petrik, Johan Pretorius, Eli Vetter, Ivory Vetter	

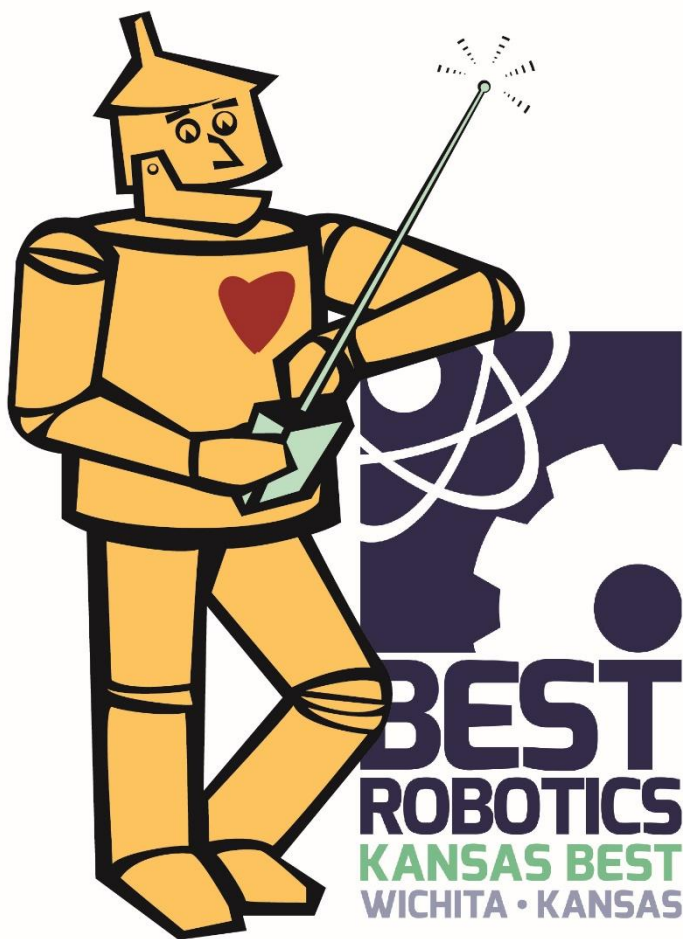
Team #/School	390 Wellington STEM
Coach(es)	Greg Ewing Ryan Ewing Teddy Wisely
Mentor(s)	
Team Members: Myles Ewing, Brittin Lawrence, Brett Sawyer, Benjamin Wisely, Emersyn Wisely	

Organization

Co Directors	Terrance Williams Linda Manfull
Steering Group	Don Brushwood John Matthew Joel Cazares Bryan Jaax Scott Ricke Alex Ziegler Nicholas Burgeson Kirsten Jensen
Field Construction	Bryan Jaax
Prototype Robot	WSU College of Engineering Ambassadors
Kits	Joel Cazares
Scoring	Joel Cazares
Team & Event Coord	Linda Manfull
Head Referee	Scott Ricke
Head Judge	Kirsten Jensen
Pit Boss/Rules Guru	John Matthew
Notebook	Linda Manfull
Robot Compliance	John Matthew Don Brushwood Wyatt Smrcka Ethan Lif
Public Relations	Lainie Mazzullo



Digital Match Schedule and Program



kansasbest.org

bestinc.org