

**For Immediate Release**

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**SOUTH JERSEY ROBOTICS, INC**

**THE LUNATECS QUALIFY FOR THE 2018 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION  
CHAMPIONSHIP IN DETROIT**

**Swedesboro, NJ April, 8th 2018** - After a tough, well-played season, South Jersey Robotics' FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team 316, the LUNATECS, have qualified to participate in the FIRST World Championship April 25– 28, in Detroit, Michigan. FIRST Championship events, held in Detroit and Houston, attract 30,000 youth, 60,000 attendees and 1,400 teams from over 62 countries. The LUNATECS are one of only 29 FIRST Robotics' Competitions teams out of the 120 teams in the Mid-Atlantic Region, who qualified to attend the FIRST Championships, in Detroit. They will be competing with 400 other FRC teams from around the world to become Detroit's FIRST Championship Winner. (A video of the LUNATECS receiving the news of their qualification is at <https://vimeo.com/263690151>)

“Going to worlds” is something that every FIRST team dreams of. This qualification makes it the second time in three years that the LUNATECS have qualified to compete at the FIRST Championship. Unfortunately in 2015 they were unable to secure the funding needed to attend and had to give up the opportunity. This time around the LUNATECS are trying to change that by seeking out businesses and individuals to sponsor their participation in the FIRST Championship and fundraising via a GoFundMe campaign (<https://www.gofundme.com/help-the-lunatecs-go-to-worlds>).

The LUNATECS are a team of committed high school students and dedicated mentors from rural south Jersey and the surrounding area. With strict rules, limited resources and an intense six-week time limit, they raise funds, create a team brand and ultimately build and program an industrial-sized robot to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. This year's competition FIRST Power Up is modeled after 8-bit video games and requires the teams to use cubes to control switches and scales and ultimately defeat the boss.

In addition to participation in the [FIRST® Robotics Competition](#) season, the LUNATECS team members and mentors make a difference in the lives of others by working on various projects that give back to the community. They work with local communities to provide underserved youth populations with access to quality STEM programs and activities and work to enhance the lives of those with disabilities through their adaptive device projects. Most recently, during the summer of 2017, LUNATECS team members [built an adaptive device for a child with a congenital amputation at the Tatnall school in Delaware](#). They designed, engineered and donated a device that enabled him to jump rope with the other kids in his class.

**About South Jersey Robotics, Inc.:**

South Jersey Robotics (SJR), Inc. a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in the tri-county area (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties in New Jersey) and beyond. Over the past decade, SJR working with local communities and school districts, has expanded and now supports 15 FIRST® Robotics teams, including the LUNATECS, and serves communities and school districts lacking in STEM-related programs. They also run two STEM-related summer camps serving over 100 students spanning multiple school districts. To learn more about South Jersey Robotics, Inc., go to <https://www.sjrobotics.com>

For more information on South Jersey Robotics, Inc., the LUNATECS, or their efforts to raise the money needed to go to the FIRST Championship, please contact Jennifer Pohlhaus, Communications Volunteer, at (484) 441-3908 or [JenniferP@sjrobotics.com](mailto:JenniferP@sjrobotics.com)

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