

Bosch, Toyota join with Dorchester School District Two to launch 2003 robotics program

\$20,000 grant supports students' participation in national robotics competition



In front of robotics "pit", (seated, from left to right) are Jim Wiseman, Toyota Vice President; U.S. Congressman Henry Brown, Jr.; and Danny Hyman, Bosch Vice President. Standing (from left to right) are Timothy Payne, Principal, Fort Dorchester High School; Al Dhaene, Bosch Vice President; Janice Jolly, Dorchester School District Two; Dr. David Pugh, Principal, Summerville High School; Joe Pye, Superintendent, Dorchester School District Two; Converse Chellis, South Carolina House of Representatives; Dr. William Books, Dorchester County Councilman; and Mr. Richard Rosebrock, Dorchester County Councilman.

On stage (from left to right) are Clint Jones, Fort Dorchester High School (FDHS), Kelly Epperson, Summerville High School (SHS), Beth Gordon (SHS), Toby Cason (FDHS), U.S. Congressman Henry Brown, Jr., Reid Touchberry (FDHS), and Jim Meeks, Bosch Training Manager

During a Community Connection ceremony on October 25, 2002, Robert Bosch Corp. and Toyota announced a \$20,000 grant to launch the 2003 Dorchester School District Two robotics program.

Bosch initiated the robotics program with Dorchester District Two in 1999 to heighten student interest in mathematics, science and technology. Bosch provides its expertise, training facilities and other support to the robotics program. "Bosch and Toyota have enjoyed a good working relationship for a number of years now," said Al Dhaene, Vice President, Robert Bosch Corporation – Charleston plant. "The Toyota Community Connection partnership provides the opportunity to contribute even more to the success of the Charleston community. With our combined contributions to Team 342 FIRST Robotics, we hope to further support our local educational program and encourage students' interests in technology."

“The robotics program has been a very successful avenue for our students to connect their classroom learning to the real world,” said Joseph R. Pye, Superintendent of Dorchester District Two. “Without the wonderful support of Toyota and Bosch, we would not be able to offer the full extent of this opportunity. “ Approximately 40 students are currently involved in the robotics program, and another 50 “graduates” have gone on to college with hands-on knowledge of engineering, computer-aided design, 3D animation and other technical skills.

The Bosch plant in Charleston supplies ABS hydraulics for the Toyota Camry, Solara and Avalon vehicles. Bosch, which employs 2,100 associates in Charleston, selected the Dorchester District Two robotics program as the Community Connection recipient.