



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Amanda Martinez**

[Amanda.martinez@latinostem.org](mailto:Amanda.martinez@latinostem.org)

949-338-2966

## **Latino STEM Alliance's Annual Robotics Competition and Family Science Fair**

*Annual competition on 5/21 will showcase robots built and programmed by Boston Public Schools youth*

**Boston, MA** – April 27, 2016 – Latino STEM Alliance invites the public to its annual Robotics Competition and Family Science Fair, “Soaring, Exploring, Achieving,” on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 650 Dudley St, Boston, MA 02125. Attendance is free, and attendees will be able to explore fun, hands-on activities and experiments at the fair, thanks to the generosity of local community partners: SIM Boston, KRONOS, National Grid Foundation, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative/Boston Promise Initiative (DSNI/BPI), the Verizon Foundation, the Boston Public Schools Office of English Language Learners and Rockland Trust/Peoples Trust Foundation.

The competition is an opportunity to learn about and support our students and their mentors as they compete against other students from Boston Public Schools using STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) skills to build and program their own robots. The student-operated robots will compete on game fields built by students representing the NUTRONS 125 FRC Robotics Team. “The STEM skills learned in our robotics programs are in addition to the leadership, communication and teamwork skills that our students learn to increase their opportunities in their education and future careers,” said Amanda Martinez, Executive Director of Latino STEM Alliance.

According to the Pew Research Center, the Latino population, already the largest ethnic minority group in the U.S., will triple in size and account for one-third of the U.S. population by 2050. Yet only 25% of Latino students are scoring proficient or higher on the math portion of Massachusetts’ MCAS exam, compared to 74% and 58% proficiency, respectively, for Asian and non-Latino white students. Further, only 13% of Latino students are achieving proficient or higher scores on the Commonwealth’s Science, Technology and Engineering test. To address these learning needs, Latino STEM Alliance leverages partnerships with schools, private industry, community groups, and academia to run afterschool STEM enrichment programs for under-served Boston Public School elementary and middle school students.

**Latino STEM Alliance is excited to invite organizations and programs to exhibit at the Family Science Fair.** This is an opportunity to showcase your organization and to share a fun activity/experiment with students, their family members, and the general public.

Again, the Family Science Fair is an opportunity to connect with the community and share with them the possibilities that STEM can provide through education and workforce opportunities.

**To RSVP your attendance**, please register (<https://latinostemrobotics2016.eventbrite.com>) or email [Amanda.martinez@latinostem.org](mailto:Amanda.martinez@latinostem.org).

**To apply as an exhibitor (free)**, please complete the short application form: <https://goo.gl/m466Wl>

### **About Latino STEM Alliance**

Latino STEM Alliance, a 501c3 certified non-profit, was founded in 2010 by a group of Latino engineers in the Boston area. The Latino STEM Alliance partners with schools, private industry, community groups and academia to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experiences to underserved youth who otherwise would not have such an opportunity. In partnership with its host schools, LSA develops Robotics programs to augment existing after school programs, and provides youth with intensive robotics-centric activities that foster leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, persistence, and communication skills. Students build, program, and debug robots to accomplish specific goals and overcome increasingly difficult challenges, and showcase their skills and achievements in the annual Robotics Competition. To learn more, visit <http://www.latinostem.org>.

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