The General Motors-Huron Valley HOT robotics team battled it out at the Michigan State Championship held this past weekend (April 8-11) in Grand Rapids. Of Michigan’s 347 FIRST Robotics teams, The HOT team was one of the 102 teams that earned enough points by competing in District Events to be invited to the State Championship. The HOT team spent a considerable amount of time during the State Championship developing and implementing a “can burglar” system to take cans off the shared step during the robot controlled autonomous period. The HOT team saw that the control of these cans during a match would be essential for advancing in the playoffs. Each can triples the value of the tote stacks built by the robot during a remote control-teleoperated period. A team can earn even more points by adding pool noodle “litter” to each can. Despite the fact this system was still in development during qualifications, the HOT team earned an average qualification score of 144. This effort caught the attention of team 3641, the Flying Toasters from South Lyon. The HOT team was the first pick of the second ranked alliance captain. Team 5114, the Titanium Tigers, of Fenton completed our neighborhood alliance. The alliance flew through the octafinals with an average score of 206. An unfortunate match in the quarterfinals brought their average down to 163 ending their run. The Bedford Express, Northville Robostangs and Traverse City Raptors. with a finals average of 242, were crowned state champions by FIRST founder Dean Kamen. The HOT Team’s Elite Eight finish and Hall of Fame status qualifies the team to compete with 600 teams from around the globe in the April 22-24 World Championship Event in St Louis, MO.

Congratulations to HOT Team members ChadAbou-Hamdan, KadenAllen, RyanAllen, HunterBarnes, HenryBaxter, NoahBeattie, NickBegien, HunterBeltowski, ShawnBlasko, PaulBonnen, MarlinaBowring, MelissaBrei, MichaelBrown, AngelaButkovich, MaryBuzolits, WilliamCaradonna, DanielleCummins, MaddyDean, NathanFeather, JohnFlowers, AlexisFosmer, NoahGould, ShaeGrubb, StevenHagopian, JoeyHatfield, EthanHolper, AlexIseler, FranklinJeffery, CodyKallay, MalloriKay, JackKoby, VarunKutirakulam, NicklasLieske, BrandonMackey, KirkMacQuarrie-Klender, DillonMassey, DrewMassey, RileyMorris, DonovanPorter, RyanRobinson, MarinSakuma, BradleySchoff, RennieScott, DylanSellers, ErickSmith, MichaelStreng, KarelVenegas, JacobWheaton, AutumnWhitney, and JuliaZahn.

Picture1: Pit Crew; KadenAllen, AngelaButkovich, WilliamCaradonna, and EthanHolper; install the new “Can Burgler” system

Picture 2: Programmers; PaulBonnen and MarlinaBowring; develop code to control the new “Can Burglers”.

Picture 3: Drive Team; NathanFeather, RennieScott and DonovanPorter stack up points at the Michigan State Championship