

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Olympics Washington Unified Robotics Championship Shines the Spotlight on Inclusion and Ingenuity

Liberty High School in Renton Will Host Seventh Annual Championship on Sunday, December 4

SEATTLE – **December 1, 2022** – Who will win the battle of the 'bots? On Sunday, December 4, students from across Washington will gather for the Special Olympics Washington Unified Robotics Championship. Developed to promote inclusion and ignite a passion for STEM through the sport of robotics, Special Olympics Washington's (<u>SpecialOlympicsWashington.org</u>) program brings together students with diverse abilities, including individuals with and without intellectual disabilities, to collaborate and build competitive robots.

WHAT: Special Olympics Unified Robotics Championship

Five teams, each made up of students with and without intellectual

disabilities, will compete to crown the 2022 champion.

WHERE: Liberty High School

16655 SE 136th Street Renton, WA 98059

WHEN: Sunday, December 4

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In the lead up to the championship, more than 80 elementary, middle and high school students participated in a six-week build program during which they were exposed to engineering and software programming.

The Special Olympics Washington Robotics program is made possible through a partnership with <u>Unified Robotics</u>, a national robotics program that unites students of diverse abilities as teammates and competitors.

About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 7,400 children and adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts,

skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information, please visit SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

About Unified Robotics

Unified Robotics is a Seattle-based national robotics program that unites students of diverse abilities as teammates and competitors on the game field, promoting inclusion with hands-on learning and collaborating in a neurodiverse environment. The program was conceived in 2015 by King's High School student, Delaney Foster, when she brought her FIRST Robotics teammates to Roosevelt High School to work alongside students with special needs to build robots. Delaney's sister, Kendall, has autism and Delaney, inspired by Special Olympics Unified Sports, has been a life-long advocate of inclusive education. For more information visit http://unifiedrobotics.org/.

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