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**TEENS JOIN THE ROBOTICS WAVE SWEEPING PITTSBURGH IN INNOVATION WORKS'
5 X 5 ROBOTICS CAMP DURING NATIONAL ROBOTICS WEEK**

PITTSBURGH – APRIL 6, 2017 – Ten local teenagers ranging from ages 12 to 16 will experience first-hand the technology trends sweeping Pittsburgh in the 5 x 5 Robotics Camp led by Innovation Works. The camp takes place April 10 – 14 at TechShop Pittsburgh (Bakery Square, East Liberty). Teens will have the chance to create different robots, meet professionals in robotics fields, and battle their bots to compete for prizes.

The week is also the eighth annual National Robotics Week which celebrates the US leadership in robotics technology, encourages students and the public to learn more about this fast-growing sector, and pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering and math). Innovation Works, best known for investing in and assisting the region's high potential tech startups, also has a number of programs to reach young people to encourage them to pursue entrepreneurship and careers in innovation.

During the 5x5 Robotics Week camp, students go through a curriculum led by Innovation Works and TechShop to build a different robotic component each day. By the end of the week, they will be able to assemble all the components into a larger, multifunctional robot. The week ends with a final race where students will have their robots do a "fire and rescue" activity. The winner is the first robot to put out a fire and "rescue" something.

Self-driving cars, robots selecting items in warehouses, robotic assistance for surgeons – these are just some of Pittsburgh's groundbreaking robotic technologies that have been decades in the making. Pittsburgh's research universities have been developing the sensor technologies, machine learning, artificial intelligence, big data analysis and storage, and so many other related sectors that make robotics a growing field for established companies and startups alike. "Pittsburgh has a tremendous support network for robotic technologies and companies," says Rich Lunak, president & CEO of Innovation Works. "Our 5 x 5 Robotics Camp is a natural outgrowth of that network championed by Congressman Mike Doyle who co-chairs the Congressional Robotics Caucus," Lunak continued. "His leadership has been felt in everything

from targeted funding for university research to student activities as part of National Robotics Week, which Congressman Doyle helped originate. We're grateful for the support that helps grow the region's technology ecosystem, furthers the technical capacity of IW's robotics portfolio companies, and boosts our programs for teens learning about the future of robotics."

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Innovation Works (IW) is the Ben Franklin Technology Partner of Southwest PA and is funded in part by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. IW is the Pittsburgh region's most active investor in startup technology companies, providing the seed capital, know-how and networks startups need to launch and grow successfully.

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