



The robotics team gathers during a competition.

Robotics program awarded Operation Round Up grant

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Brainstorming ideas on how to create a robot that uses a viper slide with rubber wheels to grip a cone is not something the average person includes in their workday. Only the scientific-minded high school students on Team No. 6645 Roboticus Maximus, a Bismarck-based robotics program, would consider this a normal process. The team plans to successfully build and program a robot for competitions.

Team No. 6645 has eight returning students this year, representing all three of Bismarck's public high schools (Legacy, Bismarck and Century). The team also includes a few homeschooled students, as well as some from Horizon Middle School.

The team meets regularly at Bismarck State College's Career Academy.

"We have been very fortunate to be based out of the Career Academy, where we have access to many resources, tech teachers and mentors and much more," says the team's coach, Brenden Horner.

In the short term, the team plans to reach out to younger students, build and redesign a robot and raise \$4,000 each year through fundraising efforts. The team's long-term goals include recruiting new members, working on communications to operate efficiently and encouraging a team effort on all projects.

The Capital Electric Cooperative Operation Round

Up board recognized the value of this program and provided a grant to help ensure students in our community have the opportunity to be involved with something so unique.

"This program will provide positive skills and interactions between the team members. It's worth our investment to make sure that happens," says Operation Round Up President LeAna Hug.

Your spare change could make a difference

Roboticus Maximus is one of many programs to benefit from the Operation Round Up program. Join others in rounding up your monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and make an impact in the communities where you live, work and play. To opt into Operation Round Up, call Capital Electric Cooperative at 701-223-1513. ☎



*Team members **Josh Pfaff**, left, and **Laurentiu Pungo** develop the team's robot for upcoming competitions.*