



# michoud messenger

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## Michoud supports Bayou Regional

The FIRST Robotics Competition Bayou Regional was held March 15-17 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, La. This year's Bayou Regional featured 49 teams representing the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Each team includes approximately 25 high school students and adult mentors who volunteer their time.

Employees from NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility and Stennis Space Center joined forces to help make the event a success. Michoud deployed its new mobile machine shop, the Robot Repair Unit, a.k.a. the R2 Unit, to the event. The R2 Unit provided machine and weld support to all participating teams and assisted with repairs and improvements between competitions.

Recently dedicated, the R2 Unit is sponsored by

Michoud's Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract (MSFOC) teammates: Jacobs, Qualis, Sierra Lobo, JIT and Geocent. A large number of MSFOC employees pitched in to build the trailer and prepare it for its inaugural use at the event. A total of 134 jobs were completed on the first day of the event, with a total of 214 repairs performed during the competition.

First Robotics Regional Director Chuck Kennedy appreciated Michoud's support. "I want to thank Michoud for your support in constructing and providing the machine shop trailer for the Bayou Regional," he said. "Having your trailer onsite was key to our success and made a huge difference for many teams."

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*Bayou Regional, continued from pg. 1*

The FIRST Robotics Competition challenges teams to compete in a different game each year. The game is announced in January, giving teams a roughly six-week window to design and fabricate their robots. This year's game was called Rebound Rumble, where teams compete to sink as many basketballs into their hoops as possible during a 2-minute-15-second match. The robots needed to be able to pick up a basketball and shoot it into one of four hoops, with additional points awarded if teams successfully balance two or more robots on a tilting ramp before time runs out.

Team Combustion 1912 from Slidell, Louisiana was awarded the competition's highest award, the Regional Chairman's Award. The regional competition winners were Texas Torque team 1477 from The Woodlands, Texas, Cryptonite Robotics team 624 from Katy, Texas, and RoBodawgs team 4353 from Lafayette, Louisiana.

Congratulations to all four teams, who have qualified to participate in the international competition set for April 25-28 in St. Louis, Mo.

## R2 Unit Ribbon Cutting



*On March 12, Michoud held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the Robot Repair Unit, known more affectionately as the R2 Unit. The R2 Unit is a mobile machine shop dedicated to helping FIRST Robotics Competition teams make repairs to their robots during a competition. Volunteers will staff the trailer during events. The trailer was built in partnership with NASA through generous donations of volunteer labor and funding from Jacobs, Qualis, MTS, Sierra Lobo, JIT, Geocent, WJ Barnes Electric and Lou-Con, Inc.*

## Letters from Leadership

According to the National Science Foundation, results of international mathematics and science literacy tests show that American 15-year-olds continue to lag behind their peers in many other countries. In our global economy, students no longer are competing within their school, their district or even nationally. They are competing with the rest of the world.

This is a sobering fact, but NASA is attacking this national deficiency head-on with many successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education initiatives.

At the heart of NASA's many achievements is education. From the launch of Pioneer 1 in 1958 through today, NASA's accomplishments have relied on a workforce steeped in the STEM disciplines. If we are to continue our success, a steady pipeline of students engaged in STEM subjects must be maintained and nurtured.

To this end, Michoud is actively involved with education outreach initiatives in the region. Through facility tours, guest speakers, partnerships and event support, Michoud has reached more than 1,200 students and teachers in the past year alone as part of our official outreach efforts.

Our front-page story highlights a NASA partnership with FIRST Robotics that demonstrates NASA's commitment to STEM education. Michoud and Stennis were able to send a number of volun-

teers to the event, as well as our mobile machine shop, the R2 Unit. I'm always amazed at what the student teams are able to accomplish with their robots, but what really excites me is seeing how genuinely enthused these students are for STEM-related areas of study. With all the excitement of the competition, the chanting and cheering of the crowds and the undying support of the team's volunteer mentors, I believe a large number of students have been inspired to pursue a career in STEM fields.

Another example of Michoud's involvement with NASA's education initiatives is the Michoud Education Fellows Program, currently in its fourth year. This program is an effort to "teach the teachers" who bring STEM subjects alive in the classroom. Each Program Fellow participates in a year-long series of instructional presentations designed to enhance their classroom curricula. This outreach benefits not only students in school today, but also all the students who will pass through a participating teacher's classroom in the future.

Today's students are our country's future. The more we invest in their success and achievement, the higher the reward will be for our nation. Thank you to all those who volunteer their time to promote STEM education.

*– Robert Champion, Michoud Deputy Director*

# Protect Yourself from Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls have long been a mainstay of physical comedy in Hollywood. From Charlie Chaplin and The Three Stooges to the latest blockbuster comedies, slapstick humor and pratfalls are used to entertain us. In reality, slips, trips and falls are no laughing matter.

According to the American Society of Safety Engineers, slip and fall injuries are the second leading cause of incidental workplace deaths – second only to traffic-accident fatalities. These injuries account for between 15 and 20 percent of all worker compensation costs.

So how do we keep ourselves from becoming a statistic? First, be aware of your surroundings and watch where you are walking. Don't walk while looking at your cell phone or other electronic device. Michoud has many different

uneven surfaces; watch out for them. Handrails are installed in all the stairwells for a reason – use them as you go up or down.

Next, if you see a hazard, don't leave it there for others to "find." Take action and DO something about it. If it's a safe liquid spill such as water, mop it up or barricade it until someone can assist you. If it's debris or objects on

the floor, move it out of the walkway if possible, or barricade the hazard if not and report it. While these actions

might seem like common sense, we can get so busy that it's easy to be dismissive about potential hazards.

The "Beyond Zero" philosophy is about creating a culture of caring here at Michoud. Following these suggestions is a simple way of helping our co-workers, and builds an accident-free, injury-free workplace we can all be proud of.



# MPCV EFT-1 Marches to Completion



After finishing a friction stir weld to join the aft bulkhead of the Exploration Flight Test (EFT) Article to the barrel, Lockheed Martin employees perform a critical lift as they remove part of the tooling surrounding the aft weldment. The barrel, which arrived at Michoud on March 19th, is machined from a single piece of aluminum and utilizes an orthogrid design to maintain rigidity and reduce weight. In 2014, the EFT-1 pictured above is scheduled to fly past the moon and return to Earth to demonstrate a high speed re-entry.

## Committed to Beyond Zero!



The Beyond Zero Commitment Workshop took place March 21-22. Over the course of the workshop, more than 50 Jacobs and NASA employees took part in discussing and learning how to create a greater "Culture of Caring" at Michoud. Small peer breakout groups gave attendees a more intimate opportunity to discuss issues, come up with solutions to roadblocks and better understand how others perceive workplace and personal safety.



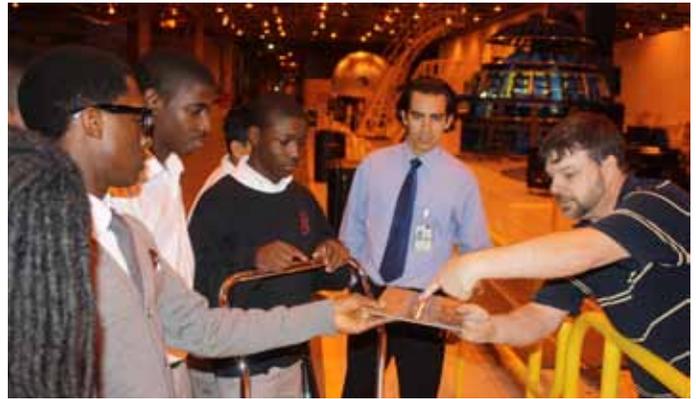
April 19 • Bldg. 115 • 11a - 1p  
The spiciest stand-down, yet!

# MAF Helps Fort Pike Volunteer Firefighters



MSFOC Employee Russell Crawford displays a steady hand as he painstakingly applies graphics to the Fort Pike fire truck. Jacobs donated the time and materials to help out the Fort Pike Volunteer Fire Department.

# Clark High School visits Michoud



During a recent tour of the Michoud Assembly Facility, students from Clark High School inspect a friction-stir-welded panel as Jacobs Technology employee John Alt explains the process.

# Slidell Police brief Insta-Gators



On March 28, Detective Daniel Seuzeneau of the Slidell Police Department visited the Safety Insta-Gator meeting and briefed the group on crime prevention and public safety.

# Earth Day Celebration and Plant Swap



Michoud employees celebrated Earth Day by planting a pair of palm trees in Exploration Park and holding a plant swap. At the ceremony, pictured left to right: Vickie Schmersahl, Andre Charbonnet, Malcolm Wood, Owen Johnson, Melanie Jennings and AnnMarie Ziegeler

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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