

EOU/ETIC Success Story

One major push we have made in the last few years is in the area of outreach. With ETIC support we have started offering a course in Lego Robotics as a means of creating a pool of enthusiastic potential volunteers to serve as mentors for local teams. The students who have participated in this course will also be available to assist with one or more week long Summer Robotics Camps for both K-8 students and teachers interested in using robotics in their classrooms. The camps will be organized and run by EOU's Community School for the Arts, an entity whose primary mission is outreach to the community, especially school aged children.

ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT PROMOTES CONTINUING EDUCATION

LA GRANDE, Oregon (December 5, 2005) – The dream of going to college became a reality over the weekend for six local high school students. A team from Union High School, Rock 'N Rowbots, walked away with the Directors Award for their performance in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Regional Robotics Tournament at Eastern Oregon University on Sunday. The blue ribbon prize for the team came in the form of six full-ride scholarships to EOU. The scholarships will be awarded to each student upon completion of their high school diplomas with good academic standing.



Eastern's tournament is one of 13 held across the state in December. "This program fans the fire, helping to get kids interested in technology," said Richard Croft, associate professor of computer science and multimedia at EOU. Croft and a host of EOU faculty and student volunteers worked tirelessly to make the event a success for the second year in row. Twelve teams of students, ages 9-14, from schools across eastern Oregon met in the Badgley Science Center atrium on Sunday morning, ready with their robots. Onlookers peered down from the balcony above, trying to catch a bird's eye view of the action below.





Eastern Oregon University's biggest recent achievement is the launching of a parallel processing cluster. During 2006, one of our senior students completed a project to build a Linux cluster, with 29 nodes, one master and 28 slave nodes. The operating system on the master node is a version of Linux called *CentOS* running the *Scyld Beowulf Series 30* Linux Clustering Software.

The first 12 slave nodes were purchased using funding from ETIC. The machines have Intel Pentium-4 3.0GHz processors with 512MB of DDR SDRAM and a Hitachi Deskstar 80GB Serial ATA-150 hard drive. The EDA machines have Intel Pentium-4 3.0 GHz processors with 2GB of SDRAM and an 80GB SATA hard drive.



The cluster is connected to the EOU campus network so that it is available to any user with a login account for the cluster. We currently have 10 student and faculty/staff accounts. The chemistry program has a research group that is looking at molecular modeling, headed by Dr. Jeffrey Woodford. The computer science program has students doing independent research with the cluster and we are working on setting up a project with the physics program in regard to their students using the cluster to do research and modeling.

We believe that this is the most powerful computer system in Oregon east of the Dalles. We are actively looking for new applications in parallel processing, remote sensing, molecular modeling, and other application to make use of this outstanding facility.

