

## MEDIA ADVISORY

ATTENTION: EDITORS, PRODUCERS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REPORTERS

DATE: 13 November 2017

### 2017 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE Competition GAUTENG CENTRAL REGION

University of South Africa (UNISA) will be hosting the 2017 [FIRST LEGO LEAGUE](#) (FLL) Competition at the Pretoria campus as the Gauteng Central Regional Competition. This competition will be hosted on 25 November 2017 by Inspired towards Science, Engineering and Technology ([I-SET](#)), a community engagement flagship project of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.



The theme of this year's challenge is [HYDRO DYNAMICS](#). This season learners will learn all about water – how we find, transport, use, or dispose of it. In the 2017/18 LL Challenge, students age 9 to 16 will make a splash with HYDRO DYNAMICS.

“FIRST LEGO League challenges kids to think like scientists and engineers. During the HYDRO DYNAMICS season, teams will choose and solve a real-world problem in the Project.

They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under the FIRST LEGO League signature set of Core Values, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism” (First Lego League, 2017). The team is required to give a 5 minute research presentation to a panel of judges. The robot is required to complete a number of WATER-theme missions for points – within 150 seconds! Each team is given 3 robotic rounds.

These teams will be joining the 23 000 other robotics teams who annually and internationally take on the FIRST Lego League Challenge. The top teams from this region will be competing with teams from other South African regions at the National FLL Competition, which will be held on 1 and 2 December 2017 at the Sci-Bono Science Centre in Johannesburg. The champions of this FLL National competition will be invited to International Open Robotics competitions.

Members of the media are invited to attend the event.

For RSVPs and interview request, please contact: Kabelo Pheeha: [Pheehk1@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Pheehk1@unisa.ac.za) and Tommy Huma (Senior Media Officer) on 012 429 3981 / 072 218 6197 / [humatm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humatm@unisa.ac.za)

For interviews and quotes please contact: Andzisani Sibiyap on 011 670 9233 / [tsibiyap@unisa.ac.za](mailto:tsibiyap@unisa.ac.za)

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About FLL: FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a program that supports children and youngsters in order to introduce them to science and technology in a sporty atmosphere. The aim is to make children and youngsters enthusiastic about science and technology, to equip the participants with the idea of team spirit and to encourage children and youngsters to solve complex tasks in a creative way.

About I-SET: I-SET is a Unisa Community Engagement Project aimed at inspiring young people and their communities' interest in Science, Engineering and Technology through fun activities. These activities are mainly centred on children building robots from Lego blocks and programming them to achieve certain outcomes. As part of its community engagement, I-SET trains the coaches, mentors and leaders of the children in setting up and promoting their teams, building and programming the robots and teaching the children how to do research.

About UNISA: Unisa is Africa's leading distance learning institution nurturing inspiring leaders of tomorrow. They are a reputable, comprehensive, flexible and accessible open distance learning institution that is motivating a future generation. They offer internationally accredited qualifications and have world-class resources.

***ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS***