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NEW YORK – September 9, 2008 – Polytechnic Institute of NYU has received a \$50,000 *Innovation Generation* grant from the Motorola Foundation to help fund teams from ten local schools for the Brooklyn FIRST Lego robotics competition.

The FIRST Lego robotics competition allows students ages nine to 14, working in teams and mentored by Polytechnic Institute of NYU graduate students, to compete to research, design, build, and program robotic creations to carry out a series of missions on table-top playing fields.

Students strengthen their understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) while learning to use the Internet and other resources to study challenge topics, present their results and test their robotic creations.

The Motorola Foundation's *Innovation Generation* grant program seeks to spark students' interest in STEM and to help develop critical-thinking skills for the long term. Providing \$4 million to K-12 programs across the U.S. in 2008, the initiative supports hands-on after-school programs, science and math clubs, teacher training and mentoring programs. By providing strong STEM education at an early academic level, Polytechnic Institute of NYU is working with Motorola to help encourage commitment to STEM learning and future STEM career paths.

"NYU-Poly has always been committed to providing a strong foundation in STEM education on which students can pursue higher education and professional careers," said Vikram Kapila, associate professor of mechanical engineering. "We have great relationships with the local school districts, and are looking forward to broadening them by enhancing the STEM curricula and fostering future discovery, innovation and invention."

"By showing students the real-world applications of concepts they learn in the classroom, *Innovation Generation* programs open their eyes to possibilities," said Eileen Sweeney, director of the Motorola Foundation. "Programs like NYU-Poly's develop students' confidence and skills to succeed in a sophisticated world and a competitive global marketplace."





About Polytechnic Institute of New York University:

Polytechnic Institute of New York University (formerly Polytechnic University), an affiliate of New York University, is New York's most comprehensive school of engineering, applied sciences, technology and research, and is rooted in Polytechnic's 154-year tradition of innovation, invention and entrepreneurship.

The institution is one of the nation's oldest private engineering schools founded in 1854 in Brooklyn, New York. In addition to its main campus at MetroTech Center in Brooklyn, Polytechnic offers programs at sites throughout the region, including Long Island, Manhattan and Westchester. For more information, and to learn more about the Power of PolyThinking, please visit www.poly.edu.

About the Motorola Foundation

The Motorola Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola. With employees located around the globe, Motorola seeks to benefit the communities where it operates. The company achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships, fostering innovation and engaging stakeholders. The Motorola Foundation focuses its funding on education, especially science, technology, engineering and math programming. For more information, on Motorola Corporate and Foundation giving, visit www.motorola.com/giving.

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