



WPI

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TouchTomorrow Festival at WPI Set for June 14 *Third Annual Event to Feature Dozens of Hands-On Space and Technological Exhibits*

WHAT: TouchTomorrow is a free and interactive festival celebrating space, science, technology and robots. The festival, now in its third year, is composed of hands-on exhibits and activities focused on our scientific and technological future. The event is sponsored by National Grid while WGBH Education and PBS Learning Media are media partners. WGBH will bring exhibits for the younger set, middle school students, and high school students.

TouchTomorrow follows the NASA-WPI Sample Return Robot (SRR) Challenge, a Centennial Challenge competition. Now in its third year on campus, the competition – held over three days leading up to the festival – brings a prize purse of approximately \$1.5 million. The SRR Challenge calls for teams of roboticists to build, program and demonstrate robots that can locate and retrieve geologic samples from a wide and varied terrain— without human control. WPI is the first university that NASA has partnered with to manage a Centennial Challenge, and the SRR Challenge is the first of these competitions to be held east of the Mississippi. Twenty teams from across the United States and abroad are coming to WPI in hopes that their robots will maneuver a difficult course and obtain the cached samples successfully.

WHEN: June 11-13, 2014 – Sample Return Robot Challenge
June 14, 2014 – TouchTomorrow at WPI

WHERE: WPI Campus, Worcester, Massachusetts

DETAILS: TouchTomorrow attendees can participate in a number of exciting outdoor and indoor exhibits and activities sponsored by groups such as NASA, WGBH Education, Ecotarium, Science from Scientists, FIRST Robotics, Worcester Historical Museum, Discovery Museum, iRobot, David Clark Company and National Grid. Attendees can explore and engage research projects being conducted by WPI faculty and students and meet NASA astronauts.

Among other activities, attendees may:

- Investigate the lifecycle of a star
- Play M&M math games

– more –

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- Take a photo in a NASA spacesuit
- Learn about spacesuit design through vacuum chamber experiments
- Learn about WPI research on human-robot interaction, surgical robots, inter-vehicular networking, unmanned aerial vehicles, biomechanics, intelligent tutors, and other cutting-edge fields.
- Take a “selfie” with WARNER, WPI’s tall, dark and humanoid robot.
- See WPI student project work in robotics, renewable energy, assistive technology, game design, architectural engineering, and other areas
- Make slime
- “Kinect” with a NASA virtual robot
- Take the paper airplane design challenge
- Command the NASA Marcbot
- See a model of the Mars Rover “Curiosity”
- Check out WPI’s NASA-sponsored research on heat transfer in space

For more information on TouchTomorrow events and activities, including schedules and maps and the Sample Return Robot Challenge, visit www.touchtomorrow.wpi.edu.

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