



# Press Release

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## Moovers Lego team honored for national achievement

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Kari Steele honored members of the Moovers Lego team for their recent success as runner-up champion in the First Lego League (FLL) North American Open Championship. The Moovers are an all-girl team composed of eighth graders from the Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove, Illinois, and local girl scout troops.

Team members are Allison Chen, Claire Haas, Isabel Lee, Rachel McCoy, Anisha Rao and Alexandra Reuter. Laurie Haas and Nithya Rao are the coaches.

“The best part of being their coach was watching these amazing young women excel in a field mainly dominated by boys,” said Coach Rao. “It is amazing what girls can accomplish when challenged. We spend so much time together during the season that we’ve become like a family. We are thankful to Kari Steele for inspiring them to work harder and encouraging them to continue in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).”

Every year, FLL teams compete in the “Research Project” category by discovering innovative solutions to real world issues based on a theme. This year’s theme was “Nature’s Fury,” which required competitors to invent ways to assist during natural disasters. The Moovers used physics to tame “Nature’s Fury” with a method to neutralize lightning before it leaves the clouds.

“I want to congratulate and honor the Moovers on their achievement,” said Commissioner Steele. “They are an all-girl team, and as a chemist, I know first-hand that women are the minorities in STEM careers so I wanted to make sure I encouraged “The Moovers” to keep excelling and mentoring their classmates in STEM.”

“I was very impressed by their focus and their achievement,” said MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos. “Our future is in good hands.”

More than 450 teams competed at 28 regional robotics tournaments to advance to the FLL Robotics State Championship tournament held in February at LEGOLAND in Carlsbad, CA.



*(Seated, L-R): Rachel McCoy, Anisha Rao and Allison Chen. (Standing, L-R): Advisor Nithya Rao, MWRD Commissioner Kari Steele, Isabel Lee, Claire Haas and MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos.*



*(Back row, L-R) MWRD Commissioner Kari Steele, Isabel Lee, and Claire Haas ;(Front row, L-R) Anisha Rao, Rachel McCoy, Allison Chen and Advisor Nithya Rao*

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*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*