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The Wando Advanced Robotics (WAR) students, led by mentors John Cutter, Kathy Kelley, John Mutter, and Giselle Cheeseman, were awarded Finalist at the FIRST South Carolina inaugural Electric City Regional in Anderson, SC.

(Anderson, SC, March 9-12, 2022) – Over 750 high school students from South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee competed in South Carolina's only *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC) regional at the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center. *FIRST*® is a global, nonprofit robotics community that prepares young people for the future through exciting and accessible k-12 robotics competitions.

Wando Advanced Robotics, FRC team 4533, "walked the Warrior way" with their perseverance of spirit through each match; engineering solutions to fix broken parts of their robot, computer drive station malfunctions, and coding solutions to help their robot drive better with each competition. These students showed gracious professionalism and collaboration with other students from all over the Southeast to form strong unified teams. Through more than 15 matches they showed so much heart these 3 days, and it all paid off when they competed in the Electric City Regional Finals. They missed the win by a mere 13 points in the tie-breaker.

The hard working WAR Team next heads to the Smoky Mountain Regional at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on March 30th with their sights set on bringing home another award and earning a spot at the FRC World Championship in Houston, TX.

Wando Advanced Robotics, FRC team 4533, is open to all Mount Pleasant high school aged students. Learn more about *FIRST*® and FRC by watching the *More Than Robots* documentary on Disney + that releases this Friday. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjllSbARc20>

Students who participate in *FIRST*® Robotics Competition are eligible for over \$80 million in college scholarships provided by participating universities and sponsors. To learn more about FRC visit: [FIRST Robotics Competition | FIRST \(firstinspires.org\)](https://www.firstinspires.org)

For more information and how to get involved, contact WAR mentor, Giselle Cheeseman, (giselle.cheeseman@firstsouthcarolina.org).

Alexis, Pierson, John, John, Wilson, and Alex fine tune the robot's functions between matches.



The Rapid React field at the Electric City Regional in the Anderson Civic Center.



Pierson waits to load the robot onto the field before a match.



Wando Advanced Robotics climbs with ease during the endgame of a match.

