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Media Advisory: GCI SchoolAccess Brings FIRST LEGO League Competition to Rural Alaskan Students

Who: GCI SchoolAccess is providing rural Alaskan students with the opportunity to compete virtually in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competition without the burden of travel costs. GCI SchoolAccess will provide rural teams, made up of fourth- through eighth-grade students, with a virtual judging facility that replicates the FLL regional face-to-face competitions.

What: FLL is intended to excite students about math and science and teach critical-thinking, team-building and presentation skills by introducing nine- to fourteen-year-old students to real-world engineering challenges. Guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, teams of three to 10 students discover exciting career possibilities and learn to make positive contributions to society by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. Additional information can be found at www.usfirst.org.

When: FLL runs from September through January. The schedule includes:

- NOW - **Team Registration**
- September 23 - Food Factor Challenge Released Online
- September-October – Telephone and Online Training for Rural Coaches
- December 4 – Virtual Qualifier Tournament -- Rural Robot Roundabout
- January 2012 – Statewide Championship Tournament in Anchorage

Contact: For more information contact Rebecca Parks, Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) and FLL Alaska coordinator, 907-523-2334 or orrparks@jedc.org. JEDC is a sponsor of FLL.

About GCI SchoolAccess

GCI SchoolAccess combines rich education experience with advanced technology to provide individualized, on-demand learning solutions that enable anytime, anywhere learning. Through our commitment to education, we help students succeed in work and life in the 21st century. Visit www.schoolaccess.net for more information.