

Son of UA Local 469 member takes first place in robotics competition

Dalton Dayea, son of Arizona Pipe Trades UA Local 469 member Jonathan Dayea, took first place at an Arizona high school robotics competition and competed in a world championship tournament in St. Louis. The 16-year-old Carl Hayden High School student and 19 teammates from Phoenix went undefeated at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition in Arizona.

Carl Hayden Falcon Robotics Lead Mentor Faridodin “Fred” Lajvardi says students put in as much time into the club as any competitive high school sport.

“The difference is that these students are developing skills in technology, problem solving, communication and fundraising to prepare for STEM-related (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) - or really - any type of career,” says Lajvardi.



UA Local 469 welder Jonathan Dayea, left, is pictured with sons Dalton and Dillan and wife, Helena.

Dalton Dayea says that his dad’s welding career inspired him to join the team.

He also says he’s thinking about pursuing a career in engineering, and knows this accomplishment will help him get there.

“It means a lot to me to be part of such a well-known team, and it’s motivating to know my teammates are future leaders,” says Dalton Dayea.

The team made it to the semifinals round at the FIRST world championships in St. Louis, Mo. April 26, 2014 where 26 other countries also competed.