

## National Headquarters of BEST Robotics, Inc.

[Auburn University](#) joined “the BEST family” in 2001 when its [Samuel Ginn College of Engineering](#) and [College of Sciences and Mathematics](#) launched **Alabama BEST**, the first BEST hub in the state and South—and one of only two hubs east of the Mississippi River at that time. Since then, faculty from the two colleges have been integrally involved in the program’s growth and development.

- **Dr. George Blanks**, Director of K-12 Engineering Outreach in the College of Engineering, was appointed Executive Director of BEST Robotics in January 2009; he had previously served for six years on its board of directors.
- **Mary Lou Ewald**, Director of Outreach for the College of Science and Mathematics, chairs the Awards and Judging Committee and is an *ex officio* member of the board, having served on it for six years.
- Since 2002, Auburn has been responsible for recruiting, training, and developing new hubs across the U.S.
- As the lead institution among the community colleges and universities nationwide that are licensed BEST hubs, Auburn was selected as BEST’s national headquarters in January 2009.

Auburn is also home to these BEST programs:

- [War Eagle BEST](#), the local hub competition for Central Alabama schools
- [South’s BEST](#), the largest of BEST’s three regional championships
- The semi-annual [BEST National Conference](#) for teachers, students, mentors, and hub personnel



Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology  
*National Headquarters, Auburn University*