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**Newton robotics team marks halfway point**

*Posted: Jan 31, 2015 9:06 PM ESTUpdated: Jan 31, 2015 9:06 PM EST*

NEWTON — The Newton Robotics Team 3142 has just finished its third week of build. “Halfway there!” is what was heard Friday night in the STEM lab as the team cleaned up for the week.

Many things have happened this week. Having built the chassis, as well as the drivetrain, progress was physically seen on the robot. Students ran into size issues that were fixed and they added XE-25 pieces for better functionality.

The business team continues to work hard trying to finance the team's ability to build and compete, as well as afford travel expenses. The team was also very happy to receive their order of team apparel.

In addition, the team went from high tech photonics partner, Thorlabs, to TRASH with visits to the Thorlabs facility in Newton and Lafayette's SCMUA Recycling Center. Coach Hofmann reached out to two local resources as soon as the new game was released at kick-off. He contacted Margarita Nunez of the Lean Team at Thorlabs, along with Reenee Casapulla, recycling coordinator of the SCMUA. Nunez was heading to Sweden and Germany on business, yet she helped arrange the team's visit to Thorlabs.