Engineering students at Utah State University placed third at a recent national robotics challenge held in Southern California.

Fifteen teams representing engineering schools from across the Western U.S. competed in this year’s E-Fest Student Design Competition organized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The event was held March 23-25 in Pomona, Calif.

Students Blake Barber, Maddie Wood, Christian Mayne, Kyler Hendrickson, Anya Neilson, Mason Moore, Brandon Kenison, Ryan Millerberg, Austin Southwick and engineering faculty member Spencer Wendel built multiple small robots designed to play in a four-way soccer game.

Student Brandon Kenison said the event taught him how to collaborate with team members and let him apply engineering concepts in a fun way.

“The best part of attending E-Fest was the friendships we built with fellow members of our team,” said Kenison. “Everyone brought something to the table, making the competition a success in every sense.”

The USU team, which also won the ‘unofficial’ school spirit award after an impromptu performance of The Scotsman