A team of West Virginia University engineering students has won the $750,000 top prize in a NASA robotics competition.

The prize was awarded last week at Worchester Polytechnic Institute in Worchester, Massachusetts.

WVU's Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources says in a news release that the 10 students earned the most points by successfully navigating a robot to win the Level 2 competition for the Sample Robot Return Challenge as part of NASA's Centennial Challenges.

It marked the end of five years of competitions that started in 2012. In the latest challenge, seven teams had to retrieve up to 10 samples. To qualify for the event, teams had to complete a first level in which a single sample had to be returned in 30 minutes.

More information: www.nasa.gov/robot

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