

# Building a Community

2017 Annual Impact Report



FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The impact of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> is bigger than STEM. We're **building a community** — one where students feel inspired and empowered to channel their curiosity into the big ideas that will change the world.”

— Dean Kamen, Founder



# Building a Community

2017 Annual Impact Report

It takes a pretty big village to raise a generation of young people who will go on to make our businesses healthier, our global economy stronger, and our society more resilient. *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is this village. We are proud to connect students, educators, and professionals to a community where we can nurture, embrace, educate, and empower today's youth as they chart their paths, while developing the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills they will need to be successful in any career.

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely on our expansive network of volunteers and leaders in business, government, media, education, and entertainment to carry out our mission, and we couldn't be more grateful. With their tireless support, we help our students become well-rounded adults who can persevere in an ever-changing workforce.

Our innovative, inspirational community is millions of people strong and growing every day. We meet in classrooms, in each other's homes, in community centers, in makerspaces, and on social media all year round. We help each other solve problems, have fun, and challenge ourselves. Creating opportunities for connection and mentorship in an inclusive environment is integral to accomplishing our goal of inspiring innovation and leadership in young people.

## The *FIRST* community has created a transformative movement.

The *FIRST* community has created a transformative movement, and we're stronger than ever. Together, we span demographics, ages, races, and professions, but we're brought together by a shared responsibility to affect and inspire a better world. *FIRST* is the community that's building global, national, and local networks to not only inspire kids to pursue STEM education and careers, but to solve problems, drive innovation, and create positive change that benefits us all.

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Will you join us  
as we come  
together to build  
a better world?

Join the *FIRST* movement. Learn more at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

# Impact That Builds Community

A decade of verifiable data shows that **exposing kids to fun, exciting *FIRST* programs builds 21<sup>st</sup> century work skills and greatly increases their motivation to seek education and careers in STEM fields.** Three years of data\* from a rigorous longitudinal study of *FIRST* indicates that girls in *FIRST* are significantly more likely to have even greater gains in STEM than their peers or boys in *FIRST*.



## ULTIMATE IMPACT 75%+ of *FIRST* Alumni are in a STEM field (student or professional)

Inspired to learn more? [www.firstinspires.org/about/impact](http://www.firstinspires.org/about/impact)

### STEM Exposure

#### FIRST STUDENTS

- 84%** build the robot
- 88%** work on robot design strategy
- 60%** program/code
- 77%** learn about STEM jobs
- 97%** have FUN!

#### GIRLS IN *FIRST*

- 75%** build the robot
- 89%** work on robot design strategy
- 61%** program/code
- 78%** learn about STEM jobs
- 97%** have FUN!

### STEM Interest & Skills

#### FIRST STUDENTS

- 88%** more interested in learning about STEM
- 88%** better understand how STEM is used to solve real-world problems
- 98%** increase teamwork skills
- 93%** increase problem-solving skills

#### GIRLS IN *FIRST*

- 85%** more interested in learning about STEM
- 92%** better understand how STEM is used to solve real-world problems
- 99%** increase teamwork skills
- 98%** increase problem-solving skills



## Education, STEM Careers

## Long-Term Outcomes

### FIRST STUDENTS

- 86%** more interested in doing well in school
- 84%** motivated to take challenging math or science classes (*FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge)
- 94%** embrace the importance of *Coopertition*<sup>®</sup>, *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup>
- 80%** more interested in jobs that use STEM

### GIRLS IN FIRST

- 83%** motivated to take challenging math or science classes (*FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge)
- 98%** embrace the importance of *Coopertition*, *Gracious Professionalism*
- 82%** more interested in jobs that use STEM (*FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge)

### FIRST ALUMNI ARE\*

- 1.8x** more likely to be very interested in computer science majors
- 2.3x** more likely to be very interested in engineering majors
- 3.9x** more likely to be very interested in robotics majors
- 2.3x** more likely to take an engineering course their freshman year

### FEMALE FIRST ALUMNAE\*

- 3.1x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in computer science
- 3.2x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in engineering
- 5.1x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in robotics
- 3.4x** more likely to take an engineering course freshmen year

\*Than a matched comparison group. SOURCES: 1) *FIRST* Longitudinal Study, 2015 2) Brandeis University: Cross-Program Evaluation of *FIRST* Tech Challenge and *FIRST* Robotics Competition (2011); 3) Evaluation of the 2012-13 *FIRST* LEGO League Program (2013); 4) More than Robots: Evaluation of *FIRST* Robotics Competition Participant and Institutional Impacts (2005); 5) *FIRST*, 2015 Survey of *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge Alumni



“ Our programs **build communities and relationships** that have the power to change attitudes and upend preconceived notions.”

# Founder's and Co-Chairs' Letter

People often define communities as the towns or cities they call home, but as technology changes the way we live and do business, communities continue to cross geographic and physical borders. We're connected with each other in-person and online. Communities are the foundation of our society, and we must continue to foster inclusive, strong, and well-resourced networks for ourselves and our children.

That's where *FIRST* comes in. Our programs build communities and relationships that have the power to change attitudes and upend preconceived notions. Through *FIRST*, students acquire the personal and professional skills they'll need for a lifetime of success, in the workforce and as well-rounded citizens of the world. Our programs provide welcoming, safe, and thought-provoking environments in which students from all walks of life can find knowledge, inspiration, and a sense of belonging – and discover themselves along the way.

*FIRST* is a movement, and our communities extend far beyond the brick and mortar: We're more than a place, an event, a team, or a program. Mentors guide student experiences and get fulfillment from passing knowledge to the next generation. Alumni dedicate time to their former teams or those nearby, and maintain the lifelong friendships and connections formed through their *FIRST* experience. Volunteers and donors keep our community running, and sponsors build connections and pathways for students seeking experiences, internships, and careers both inside and outside STEM fields.

The power of the *FIRST* community transcends friendships and career prospects; it creates connections to inspire students who face barriers to education. In New York City, a public school district for students with special education needs is using *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. to give students their first chance to be part of a team, and they are exceeding all expectations (details on page 23). In Alberta, Canada, educators on remote First Nation reserves are using *FIRST*® Robotics Competition, *FIRST*® Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*® LEGO® League to provide professional development and distance learning opportunities to help students graduate (details on page 15).

We extend our most heartfelt thanks to those who give their time and resources to *FIRST*: Your support, time, and passion have made a difference for millions of kids worldwide. We're proud to continue what you've helped build.

We hope our community and progress inspire you, and we invite you to join us – or grow your support – however you feel most passionate and able. The *FIRST* family is large, and growing, and much work remains; there are students worldwide in need of STEM education, access to mentorship, support networks, and more.

Become a mentor, sponsor a team, commit your company's people and resources, or volunteer at a local *FIRST* event. Our kids deserve so much, and with your help, we can give it to them.



**Dean Kamen**  
*Founder*



**Robert K. Ortberg**  
*Co-Chair, Board of Directors*



**Bob Tuttle**  
*Co-Chair, Board of Directors*

## Will you help us grow our community?

Join the *FIRST* movement. Learn more at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).



Communities have a responsibility to help kids become **good citizens** and **critical thinkers** who can collaborate and respect each other. *FIRST* is uniquely positioned to meet these needs.”





# President's Letter

Of all the qualities that set *FIRST* apart, I'm most proud of the community we've built. Our students, mentors, educators, sponsors, and supporters bring different backgrounds and experiences to the table. They open each other's eyes to new opportunities and provide inspiration that lasts a lifetime. As a result, *FIRST* students and alumni are already impacting the economy and working to improve social issues. I can't wait to see what they do next.

Communities have a responsibility to help kids become good citizens and critical thinkers who can collaborate and respect each other. *FIRST* is uniquely positioned to meet these needs.

- **Addressing inequality.** Seeing our programs reach students who haven't had an opportunity to engage with a meaningful STEM learning opportunity inspires me. *FIRST* STEM Equity Community Innovation Grants are making more of these connections possible. For example, S.A.Y. Detroit Play Center – an after-school resource for disadvantaged youth – uses *FIRST* programs to provide a stable environment and STEM mentors, which students may otherwise lack (details on page 14).
- **Inspiring lifelong learners.** Our investment in longitudinal research continues to show that *FIRST* works – and the impact on students extends well beyond the classroom. Our growing alumni network knows this best. Many go on to volunteer with *FIRST* and generously give their time and talents in the communities they join.
- **Creating connections.** Teamwork and collaboration across organizations are key to building a tech-enabled community and a STEM-savvy workforce. I'm proud to see *FIRST* expanding its reach through new and revamped partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and industry leaders. Our partnerships with colleges and universities helped increase scholarship opportunities for *FIRST* alumni to more than \$50 million available in 2017.
- **Developing thoughtful citizens.** Inspiring change and encouraging progress are shared responsibilities. *FIRST* is training its mentors, coaches, and volunteers to better support a culture of diversity and inclusion; translating key program materials to improve accessibility; and empowering kids to use their smarts for good.

As we work to reach our goals, *FIRST* must find creative ways to meet our community's needs. For example, we executed our first-ever dual *FIRST* Championship, giving more students the opportunity to attend and make game-changing connections with our network – students like Fredele Burns, from a rural Navajo community in Utah, who attended with his *FIRST*® Robotics Competition team and a robot they built largely out of scrap metal. Fredele's participation earned him a full-ride scholarship, bringing him closer to his dream of becoming a doctor.

To all *FIRST* mentors, volunteers, alumni, sponsors, donors, educators, and other supporters: Thank you for building a community that opens doors and provides lasting connections critical to helping students reach their full potential.

I believe more than ever that the *FIRST* community should be open and accessible to every student, regardless of location, demographic, or background. We all have a part to play to ensure every child has a foundation for success.



**Donald E. Bossi**  
*President*

Let's work  
together to give  
every child a  
brighter future.

Join the *FIRST* movement. Learn more at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).



“**UNITY** is fundamental to *FIRST*. It **is an anchor** for the very large, very effective *FIRST* community.”

— Woodie Flowers, *FIRST* Distinguished Advisor



# Fantastic Facts



1989

FIRST is founded to excite young people about science and technology

**Gracious Professionalism<sup>®</sup>**

*"Respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you've learned"*



448,000

participants (ages 6-18)



230,000

mentor/coach/volunteer roles filled



17,000,000

hours donated by volunteers

**Coopertition<sup>®</sup>**

*"Competing teams help and cooperate with each other"*



50

U.S. States



85+

countries

~200

scholarship providers



200+

Fortune 500 companies sponsor FIRST



\$50M+

in scholarships



~40,000

robots constructed

12%



growth in number of FIRST teams (over 2016)

**Limitless**

opportunities for a meaningful experience



“

It's not about winning...  
it's about **teamwork**,  
**commitment**, and  
**responsibility!**”

— FIRST Robotics Competition Team 359 “Hawai’ian Kids” motto

# Progression of Programs

A progression of **four programs** gets young people involved early, developing **skills** and building **confidence**, keeping them engaged from kindergarten through high school.

## **FIRST** **ROBOTICS** **COMPETITION**

Ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12)

Mentored by STEM professionals, teams compete with 120-pound robots of their own design, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. It's a sport where every student can go pro.

- Robotics
- Learn From the Pros
- Game Play
- Scholarships

## **FIRST** **TECH** **CHALLENGE**

Ages 12-18 (Grades 7-12)

Students learn to think like engineers. Teams build robots from a reusable kit of parts, develop strategies, document their progress in an engineering notebook, and compete head to head.

- Robotics
- Engineering Notebook
- Game Play
- Scholarships

## **FIRST** **LEGO** **LEAGUE**

Ages 9-16\* (Grades 4-8)

\*Ages vary by country

Guided by *FIRST* Core Values, teams build and program autonomous robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a series of missions on a themed playing field. They also develop research projects based on a real-world theme that changes annually.

- Robotics
- LEGO® MINDSTORMS®
- Game Play
- Research

## **FIRST** **LEGO** **LEAGUE JR.**

Ages 6-10 (Grades K-4)

Teams explore today's scientific challenges, then present what they learned using a *Show Me* poster. They also build a LEGO® model and program it to make it move using LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0.

- Engineering Notebook
- LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0
- Research
- Presentations

# Expanding Access to the *FIRST* Community

*FIRST* launched its **STEM Equity Community Innovation Grants** program in the 2016-2017 season to provide grants to underrepresented and underserved communities. Supported by generous sponsors and donors, the grants empower educators and community leaders to develop new, innovative approaches to address inequities in STEM education using proven *FIRST* programs. An evaluation was conducted to assess the implementation, impact, and practices around access, equity, and inclusion.

**9** Sites

**1,080** Youth Reached

**152** Teams Started

## Supporting STEM Engagement in Detroit Community Center



### S.A.Y. DETROIT PLAY CENTER

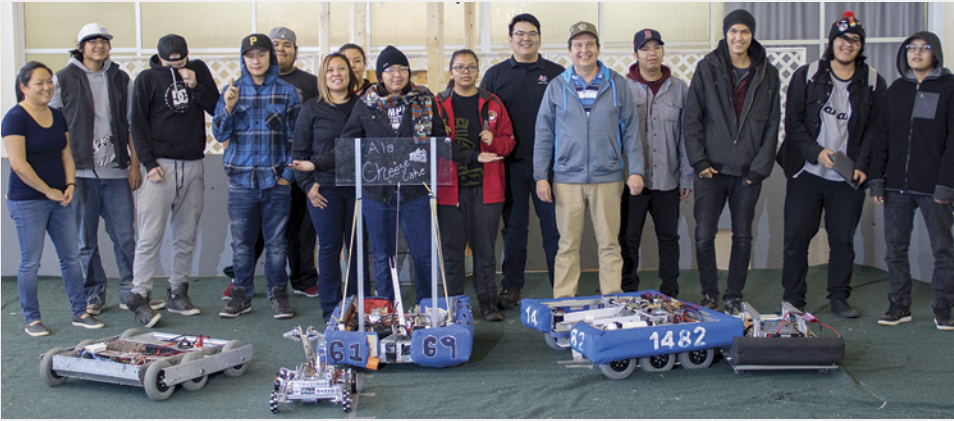
To fill a critical gap in one of Michigan's most disinvested neighborhoods, the **S.A.Y. (Sports. Academics. Youth.) Detroit Play Center** sought high-quality, mentor-driven STEM programs to excite and engage local students at its afterschool tutoring and recreation center, which was opened by philanthropist Mitch Albom in 2015. With funding from a *FIRST* STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant and support from *FIRST* in Michigan leaders and local *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 503 "Frog Force," S.A.Y. Play added a robotics room, formed *FIRST* LEGO League and

*FIRST* Tech Challenge teams, and hosted a tournament in its first year.

With *FIRST* programs, S.A.Y. Play is helping fill a void of team-based STEM engagement opportunities in neighborhood schools. In addition to building and programming robots, the S.A.Y. Play students are building positive relationships with STEM role models and learning to collaborate to solve problems, present their ideas to others, and practice public speaking. For the students, these opportunities are incredibly meaningful. "My favorite part is we get to learn new things every day," Tyler, age 8, says.

**"[*FIRST* is] opening everyone's eyes to the potential that robotics has. It's not something you see every day [in the community]."**

—Lena Pernell, Director, S.A.Y. Detroit Play Center



## Breaking Down Barriers to STEM Access in First Nations Communities

### ALBERTA DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER

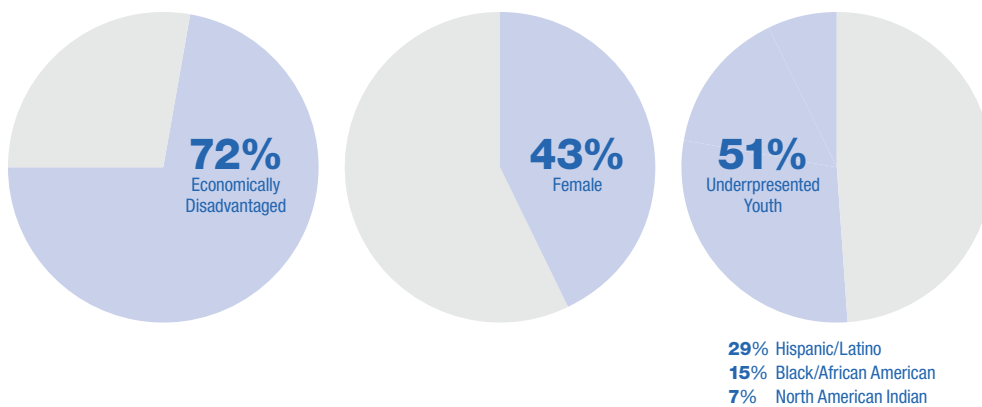
The **Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC)** is breaking down access barriers to hands-on, community-based STEM learning experiences in rural and remote First Nations communities throughout Alberta, Canada, with the support of a *FIRST* STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant. The grant helped establish and grow *FIRST* teams at three First Nations schools, including funding ADLC curriculum development, First Nations teacher training, and a celebratory robotics and cultural event.

Young people from First Nations communities experience graduation rates that are lower than the Canadian average, often attributed to low attendance rates and skill shortages. *FIRST* programs fit well with Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, which include mentor-based learning, learning by doing, and learning through community. Through ADLC, First Nations students gained access to credits for participating meaningfully on *FIRST* teams. *FIRST* engaged the students in STEM and helped increase school attendance.

**“We’ve never had robotics on our reserve. We felt it was important to help people learn about robotics because from robots you can launch careers into greater things: programming, building, design, repair.”**

—Lloyd Verreault, Teacher/Mentor, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 6673 “Alexis Tech Warriors”

## Reached more underrepresented and underserved youth



Results on this page are from an evaluation of the 2016-2017 *FIRST*® STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant.

## Positive outcomes as a result of participation

### GAINS IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS

Teamwork **93%**

Problem Solving **97%**

Leadership **91%**

### GAINS IN STEM

STEM Interest **95%**

STEM Awareness **93%**

STEM Career Interest **90%**



Fascination with STEM  
STEM Values  
Competency Beliefs in STEM  
STEM Innovation Stance



**STEM Learning Activation**

## Factors that resulted in success

A local **Champion** with a personal connection to the community

**Flexibility** holding off-season events and extending the season to accommodate schedules

**Removing Barriers** providing transportation, food, child care, and coach stipends

**Peer Mentoring** by other *FIRST* teams

**Community Support**

**Training**

# Season Highlights





FIRST is honored to welcome new **Strategic Partners John Deere** and **NRG**. Thank you!



**Nine communities** reached more than **1,000 underserved and underrepresented students** with hands-on learning and problem-solving opportunities after receiving **2016 FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grants**, sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, The Boeing Company, and Microsoft, among others; 2017 Grant was announced.



**Rockwell Automation** announced a **four-year, \$12 million commitment** to FIRST to address critical need to inspire and train students for today's industrial careers.



**FIRST, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Qualcomm® Incorporated** hosted a **Learn. Explore. Inspire. event** aboard the **USS Midway** to rally support for STEM opportunities and student access to San Diego military communities.



**Second annual FIRST, Inspire Gala** honored **David Siegel & Dana Matsushita, Dr. Irwin M. & Joan K. Jacobs, and Dr. Paul E. & Geneviève Jacobs** for advancing STEM education in underserved communities.



Inaugural dual **FIRST Championship** events took place in **Houston** and **St. Louis**, with the culminating **FIRST Festival of Champions** held in **Manchester, New Hampshire**.



**Triangle Fraternity** is comprised of members who are pursuing college majors in engineering, math, and the sciences. They formalized an **Alliance** relationship with FIRST in order to help promote our programs among their members and encourage FIRST participation and engagement within their Fraternity Chapters.



**FIRST Scholarship** program exceeded **\$50 million** milestone.





# Building Stronger Communities and Brighter Futures



## Second Annual *FIRST*, Inspire Gala

To help expand diversity efforts and STEM opportunities for students in underserved communities, hundreds of *FIRST* supporters gathered at Cipriani 55 Wall Street in New York City for the second annual *FIRST*, Inspire Gala.

The event featured prominent speakers such as Dan Huttenlocher, Dean and Vice Provost of Cornell Tech; Dean Kamen, founder of *FIRST*; and many *FIRST* students, recognizing the impact that the organization has made in STEM education over the past 27 years.

“We come from different backgrounds, different cultures, and different lifestyles,” Eram, a student from Bronx Academy for Software Engineering, told the audience. “But what we all have in common is our passion for *FIRST*. With the skills that we learn and practice through *FIRST* programs, we will be the next generation that can solve some of the world’s biggest problems.”

The charity event included a live auction that featured a clock handmade by Kamen that sold to United Therapeutics. Proceeds from the event further expand opportunities for more students to participate in *FIRST* programs.

“We know that nurturing and strengthening education leads to continued innovation and, in the long run, economic growth. Qualcomm’s support of *FIRST* goes beyond traditional sponsorship. We want to transform young people’s lives and the future of our industry.”

—Paul Jacobs





“FIRST is about helping each other succeed, and building community. Our problems today will be solved by the next generation. I can think of no better organization to solve them than *FIRST*.”

— David Siegel



Six honorees were presented with individual awards for their efforts to advance STEM education in underserved communities:

**David M. Siegel**, Co-Founder, Two Sigma Investments and member of the *FIRST* NYC Board of Directors, and **Dana Matsushita** earned the John C. Whitehead Leadership Award in honor of the New York City luminary who recognized the need for hands-on activities that inspire youth with the power of STEM.

**Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs**, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus, Qualcomm Incorporated; **Joan K. Jacobs**; **Dr. Paul E. Jacobs**, Executive Chairman, Qualcomm Incorporated; and **Geneviève Jacobs** earned the Community Inspiration Award for inspiring students to pursue STEM and help build stronger communities.

Thank you to our *FIRST*, Inspire Gala sponsors who appear on page 50 of this Report.



**\$1.4 million raised to expand diversity efforts and student access to STEM opportunities**



CHAMPIONSHIP



# FIRST Championship Community Doubles

PRESENTED BY



The annual *FIRST* Championship offered attendees its usual exciting, action-packed experience, but for the first time, twice as many people experienced the heart-pounding thrills and team spirit of this incredible sporting event.

Thanks to the support of *FIRST* sponsors, host cities Houston and St. Louis, and thousands of pumped-up volunteers, more than 30,000 students from 62 countries put their innovation skills to the test at the inaugural dual *FIRST* Championship presented by Qualcomm.

This global celebration of science, engineering, and technology inspired students and adults alike, with intense competitions, opportunities to create connections, shared ideas, and hands-on fun and technology demonstrations at the *FIRST* Innovation Faire.

## 2017 *FIRST* CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

2 Championship Events

*Houston & St. Louis*



62

*countries represented*



63,000+

*attendees*

45,000+

*team participants (students, mentors, coaches, and adult supporters)*



2,400

*volunteers*



“FIRST is a robust community of students, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors from all over the world. Each of you has your own unique qualities that make you a champion, but we are all united by our passion for using technology and engineering to make the world a better, safer, and healthier place.” — Donald E. Bossi

## 2017 FIRST Championship Sponsors

### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### PROGRAM SPONSORS



### SPONSORS

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IBM Corporation  
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Nidec Motor Corporation  
Phillips 66  
Picatinny STEM  
PwC US  
Southwest Airlines  
St. Louis Regional Chamber

St. Louis Union Station Hotel  
TE Connectivity  
Texas Instruments  
Uber  
United Technologies  
Viasat  
Vulcan Spring  
Walt Disney Imagineering



# FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE JR.

## Ages 6-10 (Grades K-4)

### Accomplishments

Approximately 64,000 6-10 year-olds participated on 10,655 teams in 42 countries, celebrating curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork.

### Competitions

Over 400 regional Expos; FIRST LEGO League Jr. World Festival Expo in Houston and St. Louis.

### Noteworthy

Registered teams each received an exclusive LEGO Inspire Model to help start their journey. A grant from the LEGO Foundation allowed more than 8,000 underserved children across five countries to join in the season.

Young children ages 6-10 dove into the animal kingdom to learn how humans and animals help each other every day. Students built LEGO® models and programmed them with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0 to make them move. They documented their journey in an Engineering Notebook and created *Show Me* posters to represent what they learned.





# Sharing in the Community

## LESLIE SCHECHT

**FIRST LEGO League Jr. School District, District 75  
New York, New York**

New York City's District 75 provides city-wide support programs for 25,000 public school students from pre-K to age 21 with moderate to severe disabilities. As the district's director of STEM, Leslie Schecht is always looking for kinesthetic programs to reach kids with special needs.

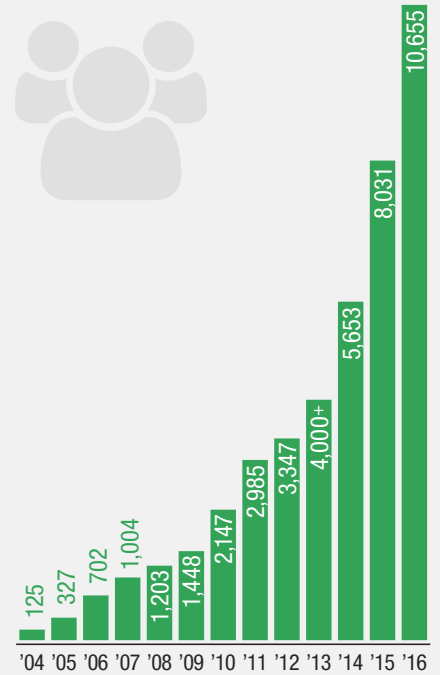
Leslie was interested in *FIRST LEGO League Jr.* for her students because it was hands on and offered meaningful opportunities to collaborate and build social skills. "It's very important, especially for kids on the autism spectrum, to work with other students, and it was the perfect venue for our students."



During the 2016-2017 school year, Leslie worked with *FIRST NYC* to pilot the program in 22 district schools, including providing professional development for teachers and hosting a student expo in the spring at the New York Hall of Science.

The expo, attended by members of the community, has been a key part of *FIRST LEGO League Jr.*'s success in District 75, where the program is growing. "It's inspirational: Kids see each other's work and appreciate each other's work, and they get ideas, so it's all about moving forward," Leslie said.

## Team Growth



I really believe that if it's good for general education students, it's good for special education students. It's just a matter of adapting and making it accessible."

— Leslie Schecht, Director of STEM, NYC Department of Education District 75

### Accomplishments

Approximately 248,000 9-16 year-olds\* on 31,079 teams from 86 countries participated in this season's Challenge.

### Competitions

1,248 Qualifying Tournaments, 153 Championship Tournaments, 5 Open Championships; *FIRST* LEGO League World Festival in Houston and St. Louis.

### Noteworthy

*FIRST* Steps gave new coaches an online, meeting-by-meeting resource to navigate their first season and connect with their contemporaries.

Global Innovation Award winners The Hydrators of Oakville, Ontario, Canada, created the H<sub>2</sub>O Post (Horses Hydrating Outside), an automated water post to monitor the amount of water horses drink using chips implanted in the horse's naval cavity (details on page 47).

Teams explored how we can improve our interactions with animals. Students were challenged to think about all the different ways that people interact with animals, and how we can be better allies.



\*Ages vary by country





## Connecting communities

### ZAINA SIYED

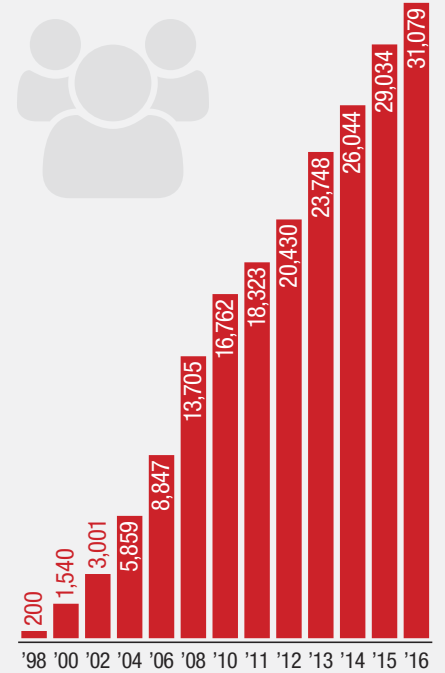
**FIRST LEGO League Team 23772, “FemSTEM”**  
Chino Hills, California

At age 16, *FIRST* LEGO League Alumna Zaina Siyed founded the FemSTEM Robotics Scholarship Program, an all-female Muslim robotics team and scholarship fund based in Chino Hills, California. She recruited students, crowdfunded the costs, and coached the *FIRST* LEGO League team out of a local mosque.

Inspired by her own *FIRST* LEGO League experience, where she learned a lot about robotics, teamwork, coding, and perseverance, Zaina sought to awaken Muslim girls to STEM and break down barriers. “I wanted the girls in my community to experience *FIRST* LEGO League and be tech literate, passionate about STEM, and open to STEM careers,” she said. “I wanted them to be leaders and cooperative problem solvers.”

In just four months, Zaina helped eight girls without any prior robotics experience prepare for a *FIRST* LEGO League tournament. Despite being a rookie team, FemSTEM won a first-place overall award and advanced to a state championship. “My community was very proud of them and I think we have encouraged others to join *FIRST*,” she said.

## Team Growth



“For me, the *FIRST* community has been a uniting force and has helped everyone realize that lots of communities share a passion for science and technology.”

— Zaina Siyed, Founder/Coach, FemSTEM

# FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

## Ages 12-18 (Grades 7-12)

### Accomplishments

Approximately 52,000 participants (ages 12-18, grades 7-12) on 5,222 teams from 23 countries; eligible for over \$50 million in college scholarships.

### Competitions

628 Meets, League Championships, and Qualifying Tournaments; 82 Championship Tournaments; 4 Super-Regional Championship Tournaments; *FIRST* Tech Challenge World Championship in Houston and St. Louis.

### Noteworthy

This year's challenge introduced the use of Vuforia™ augmented reality software offered by PTC, allowing teams to track the orientation of image targets on the field to assist in autonomous navigation. Such exciting, best-in class technology enhancements are made possible by the powerful Qualcomm Snapdragon processors used by teams.

Teams designed, programmed, and operated robots to place small balls into vortexes, including a Center Vortex on a rotatable stand, light beacons with their alliance's color, and raise a large ball off the playing field and place it in their Center Vortex.



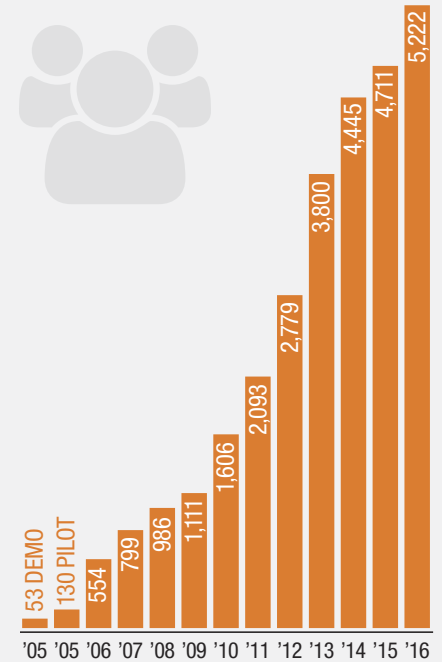
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## Team Growth



# Building passion in a tech community

### BAILEE ALLEN

Founder, *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 9761 “The PrestidigiTaters”  
Saint George, Utah

*FIRST* participant Bailee Allen was one of the 50 National Winners of the 2017 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. She plans to major in graphic design and start a web business – and she credits her unwavering passion for technology to the community she’s formed in southern Utah through *FIRST* and *FIRST* Strategic Alliances 4-H and NCWIT.

After participating in *FIRST* LEGO League and taking a programming class through 4-H, Bailee and her *FIRST* friends formed *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 9761 “The PrestidigiTaters” through a 4-H grant. “That’s when I started to notice the difference the community around me was making on my *FIRST* experience and my path through technology,” she said.

The PrestidigiTaters have made it a priority to give back to the community through outreach events, robotics demonstrations, and teaching at technology and summer camps. The team also hosted a scrimmage for rookie *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams and mentors local *FIRST* LEGO League teams – or “potential PrestidigiTaters,” as Bailee calls them. “*FIRST* Tech Challenge is just fun. We do so many great things,” she said.

“We wanted to give others the same opportunities we’ve been shown through *FIRST* and our tech community here in southern Utah.”

— Bailee Allen, Founder/Student,  
The PrestidigiTaters

# FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

## Ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12)

### Accomplishments

84,000 high-school students on 3,357 teams from 25 countries; eligible for over \$50 million in college scholarships.

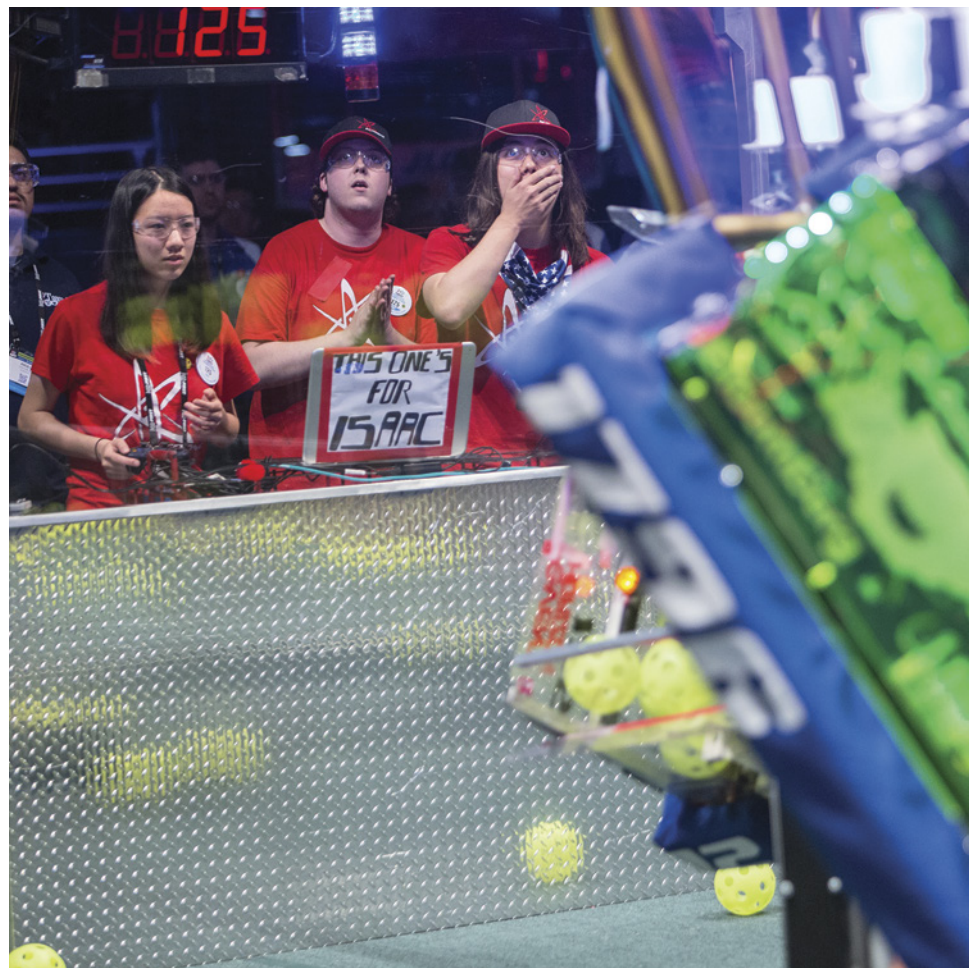
### Competitions

80 District Events; 10 State/District Championships; 55 Regional Events; *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship for over 800 participating teams in Houston and St. Louis.

### Noteworthy

For the first time, four human players on the field became an integral part of game play. Our first international Chairman's Award winner, Team 3132 "Thunder Down Under" of Australia, joined Team 2614 "MARS" as shining examples of the *FIRST* community.

**F**IRST STEAMWORKS<sup>SM</sup> invited two adventure clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long distance race. Each three-team alliance scored points and prepared to take flight by building steam pressure, gathering materials to start the rotors, and boarding robots onto their airships.





## Finding community and thriving

### JAWANN ODUMODU

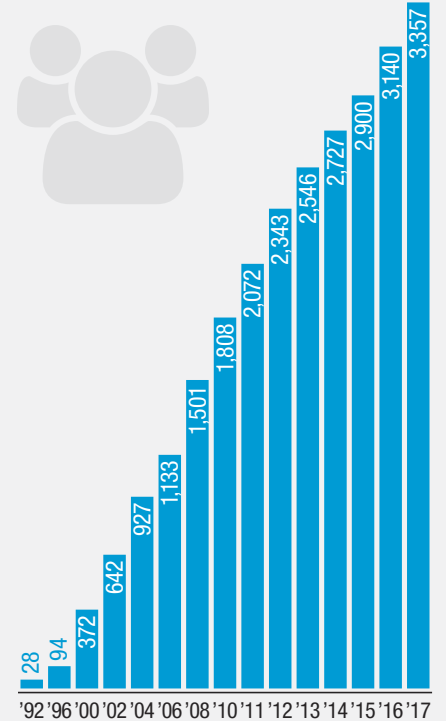
**FIRST Robotics Competition Team 66 “Grizzly Robotics”  
Ypsilanti STEMM Middle College, Ypsilanti, Michigan**

Ypsilanti STEMM Middle College is a five-year dual-enrollment high school in Michigan founded around the principles of *FIRST* and its robust afterschool *FIRST* Robotics Competition program, “Grizzly Robotics.” In August 2016, the school, Grizzly Robotics, and the University of Michigan’s Michigan Bicentennial Archive (M-BARC) entered into a three-year partnership to build a prototype of a satellite as a part of a United Launch Alliance CubeSat Grant.

Jawann Odumodu and his teammate, Orlando Garrett, were selected to build the satellite prototype. “It was hard. We spent hours and hours and even our whole spring break at the school every day,” Jawann said. It was also a dramatic turnaround for Jawann, who the previous year had struggled to focus in school following a family tragedy.

After a mentor encouraged him to join Grizzly Robotics, which also included after-school homework supervision, Jawann improved his GPA from a 1.0 to 3.0 average – and his interest in robotics caught fire, leading to the Cubesat opportunity. Jawann, who is considering a career in robotics or medicine, looks forward to seeing a satellite he helped build launched into space.

## Team Growth



“What I really liked about *FIRST* is that no matter how you’re doing, you’re always proud of yourself. They always make you feel happy, that you’re welcome.”

— Jawann Odumodu, Student,  
Grizzly Robotics

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In addition to our sponsors, suppliers, and contributors acknowledged on these pages, *FIRST* extends its sincere appreciation to the tens of thousands of volunteers who generously devote their time and expertise to *FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, *FIRST* LEGO League, and *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. teams and events. *FIRST* could not achieve the impact it does without this tremendous support.

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## 2017 FOUNDER'S AWARD

# St. Louis Local Organizing Committee



Dean Kamen, John Bettag, Susie Mathieu, Jim Kiske, and Bert Vescolani (four members of the St. Louis Local Organizing Committee for the 2011-2017 *FIRST* Championship).

Each year, the Founder's Award is presented by *FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen to an organization or individual for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of *FIRST*. In 2017, the award was presented to the **St. Louis Local Organizing Committee** for their dedication to making *FIRST* Championship and *FIRST* programs in St. Louis, Missouri, a success.

For the past seven years, the Committee worked tirelessly to welcome thousands of students, mentors, coaches, volunteers, and spectators to the *FIRST* Championship, while continuing to grow *FIRST* programs in the region. Through the work of the Committee, St. Louis expanded from hosting one *FIRST* Robotics Competition Regional event in 2010, to hosting over 60 events across all *FIRST* programs in 2017.

Susie Mathieu, who accepted the award on behalf of the Committee, recognized the lasting impression *FIRST* has made on the heart of the city. Mathieu also thanked the St. Louis area sponsors and community, whose support was instrumental in making *FIRST* programs more accessible.

As *FIRST* Championship moves to new cities, St. Louis has established a special place in *FIRST* history, and the ripple effects of the city's continued partnership with *FIRST* will build a brighter future for generations to come.

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## 2017 WOODIE FLOWERS AWARD

### Developing a Strong STEM Community



The Woodie Flowers Award recognizes mentors who inspire their students to understand the challenges, opportunities, and satisfaction involved in the discipline of engineering and design. **In 2017, it was awarded to *FIRST* Robotics Competition mentor Glenn Lee.**

A former electrical engineer, Lee began teaching at Waiialua High and Intermediate School in Waiialua, Hawai'i in 1994. In 1999, Lee co-founded *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 359, "Hawai'iian Kids," the first robotics-related program in the state. He believes robotics is a catalyst for opportunity and has inspired hundreds of students by sharing his knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Yearlong, Lee and Team 359 spread the mission and reach of *FIRST*. In Hawai'i, they mentor local teams and have worked with Hawai'iian legislators to expand access to *FIRST* programs and create STEM opportunities. Lee has also worked as an ambassador to expand *FIRST* Robotics Competition programs in China, Australia, and Japan. He embodies Team 359's motto: "it's not about winning ... it's about teamwork, commitment, and responsibility!"

Lee is described by his students as the linchpin for Team 359. He is a small part of the overall function of the team, but also one of the most vital, holding together hundreds of *FIRST* youth, families, mentors, and colleagues from around the world.

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FIRST TECH CHALLENGE  
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**TOP TEAM SPONSORS**

(10 or more teams in 2016-2017)

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TE Connectivity  
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Bimba Manufacturing  
CTR Electronics  
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igus® Inc.  
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NI  
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REV Robotics  
Rockwell Automation, Inc.  
DS SolidWorks Corporation  
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL)

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Analog Devices Inc.  
AutomationDirect.com  
Bishop-Wisecarver Group  
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BaneBots  
Bosch  
Clippard Instrument Laboratory  
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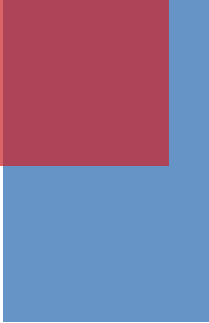
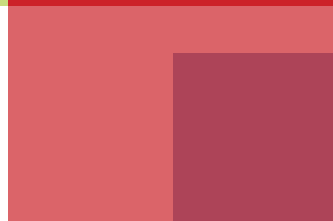
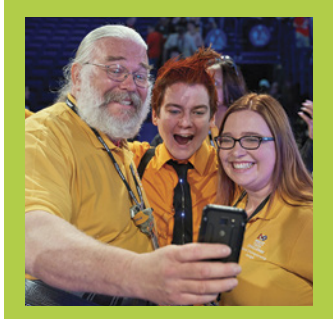
**TOP TEAM SPONSORS**

(20 or more teams in 2017)

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GE Healthcare  
Pentair Foundation  
Society of Women Engineers (SWE)



# FIRST<sup>®</sup> prepares students for life beyond high school

• Create community • Grow your network • Find internships • Inspire others

## ALUMNI

**Highest degree expected:**

**34%** Bachelors

**41%** Masters

**19%** Doctorate



**43%**

**of alumni still involved in FIRST:**

**26%** are mentor/coaches

**18%** volunteer at events

**15%** volunteer (other)

**FIRST Alumni gained skills and attitudes needed in today's workforce:**

**90%** Problem Solving Skills

**90%** Teamwork

**87%** Innovative Thinking

**85%** Creative Thinking

**85%** Perseverance

**79%** Leadership

**FIRST strengthened post-high school success:**

**83%** more confident in leadership roles

**78%** more confident in time management

**74%** more prepared for college courses

**72%** gained access to mentors and peers in STEM

**College majors:**

**54%** Engineering

**32%** Computers/Programming

**22%** Science

**11%** Math

**78%**

**of all alumni:**

**68%** of all female

**82%** of all male

**are in STEM fields**



# FIRST Scholarship Program



In 2017, as part of the *FIRST* Scholarship Program, nearly 200 *FIRST* Scholarship Providers made available over \$50 million in scholarship opportunities to *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge participants and alumni.

The majority of *FIRST* scholarships are made available by specific colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses; others are made available by corporations, associations, or foundations for use at a selection of schools. The 2017 *FIRST* Scholarships are listed below.

To learn more about the *FIRST* Scholarship Program, or to make *FIRST* Scholarships available from your institution, please visit: [www.firstinspires.org/scholarships](http://www.firstinspires.org/scholarships)

## 2017 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDERS

### PLATINUM (\$500,000+)

Capitol Technology University  
Clarkson University  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Johnson & Wales University  
Kettering University  
Lawrence Technological University  
Macquarie University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
Michigan Tech University  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Olin College of Engineering  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
University of Advancing Technology  
University of Rochester  
U.S. Navy ROTC–St. Louis Recruiting District  
Webb Institute  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University

### GOLD (\$100,000 - \$499,000)

Boston University  
Bucknell University  
College of the Atlantic  
Daniel Webster College  
The Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial *FIRST* Scholarship  
Drexel University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–AZ  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–FL  
Hudson Valley Community College  
Indiana University  
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)  
Jacksonville University  
Merrimack College  
Northeastern University  
Randolph College  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Syracuse University College of Engineering & Computer Science  
Tulane University  
University of Hartford  
University of Missouri–Kansas City  
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Engineering

### SILVER (\$40,000 - \$99,000)

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)  
Arizona State University  
Bradley University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Hallmark University  
Harvey Mudd College  
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)  
Lindenwood University  
Marquette University  
McKendree University  
National Fluid Power Association (NFPA)  
Northern Arizona University  
Northwest Nazarene University Engineering Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Foundation  
Pace University, Seidenberg School of Computer Science & Information Systems  
Pacific University  
Raytheon Company  
Seattle Pacific University  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute  
Temple University  
University of Cincinnati–College of Engineering & Applied Science  
University of Kansas  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities/PTC, Inc.  
University of Portland  
University of South Carolina, College of Engineering & Computing  
University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering  
University of Texas Arlington  
University of Texas at Austin  
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology  
Washington State University–Volland College of Engineering & Architecture

### BRONZE (\$20,000 - \$39,000)

Adelphi University  
California University of Pennsylvania  
Canadore College  
City College of New York  
Eastern Washington University  
Grand Valley State University  
Hofstra University  
Lake Superior State University  
Make School  
Mercer University

Missouri University of Science & Technology  
Molloy College  
NextEra Energy/Florida Power & Light Company  
Nipissing University  
Northwestern University  
The Ohio State University  
Oklahoma State University College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology  
Rutgers University  
St. Clair College  
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)  
Texas Tech University  
University of Maryland, A. James Clark School of Engineering  
University of Massachusetts Lowell Engineering  
University of Tennessee, College of Engineering  
Vermont Technical College  
Whitworth University  
Xavier University

### BRASS (UP TO \$19,999)

American Petroleum Institute  
Anoka Technical College  
Boise State University  
Cleveland State University  
The College of St. Scholastica  
DePaul University  
Eagle Robotics  
East Carolina University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Farmingdale State College  
Ferris State University  
Gates Corporation  
George Fox University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Kansas State University College of Engineering  
Los Angeles Robotics/Southern California Regional Robotics Forum (SCRRF)  
Maryville University  
McMaster University  
Metropolitan Community College–Maple Woods  
Mineral Area College  
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North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University

North Carolina State University  
NYU Tandon School of Engineering  
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The following key organizations and volunteers in the field organize the FIRST LEGO League Jr. program in their respective regions.

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Macquarie University

##### Canada

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Steven Noseworthy  
FIRST Technology Association, Inc.

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Stian Elstad  
FIRST Scandinavia

##### Egypt

Ayman El Kabbany  
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##### Estonia

Heilo Altin  
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##### Greece

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##### India

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India STEM Foundation

##### Ireland

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##### Israel

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Keren Muchnik  
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##### Japan

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Takahiro Kondo  
FIRST Japan

##### Jordan

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##### Lebanon

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Mark Franken  
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##### Pakistan

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##### Panama

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## 2017 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE GLOBAL INNOVATION AWARD

# Young Inventors Solving Problems in their Communities



Across the *FIRST* Progression of Programs, team members are encouraged to ask questions, challenge themselves, and follow their own spark of innovation to improve the world around them. Divergent thinking and community outreach are the norm, not the exception. Using robotics competitions as the vehicle, *FIRST* is inspiring the next generation of leaders, builders, and dreamers to solve problems in their communities.

### 2017 FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award

The *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award is a competition designed to showcase the real-world, innovative solutions that *FIRST* LEGO League teams create as a result of their Project.

In its seventh year, the 2017 *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award celebrated the inventions *FIRST* LEGO League teams created to improve how humans interact with animals during the ANIMAL ALLIES<sup>SM</sup> season. The competition asks teams to consider possible barriers to implementation, document the evaluation of their invention, and validate their design with professionals and gives teams a way to build critical skills in these areas.

**“The Hydrators” from Oakville, Ontario, Canada, took the top prize – a \$20,000 cash award – with their H<sub>2</sub>O Post (Horses Hydrating Outside), an automated water post that monitors the amount of water horses drink. The post and trough monitor water consumption by using chips implanted in the horse’s nasal cavity. The data is collected through a RFID reader and is sent to the horse’s owner through an app.**

**TEXAS – NORTH**

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Virgilio Gonzalez  
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NASA IV & V Educator Resource Center

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Natrona County School District

**2016-2017**

***FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE**

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Macquarie University

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Alberta Youth Robotics Association

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**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

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*FIRST* Robotics Canada

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Rachid Abiza  
*FIRST* Robotics Québec

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University of Regina

**Chile**

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Fundación SparkTalents

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**Chinese Taipei**

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Fundación Global Arte Ciencia y Tecnología

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Stian Elstad  
*FIRST* Scandinavia

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Abraham Dauhajre  
Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias y Tecnología

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Ayman El Kabbany  
Techno Future Egypt

**Estonia**

Heilo Altin  
MTÜ Robotika

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Stian Elstad  
*FIRST* Scandinavia

**France**

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EduACT

**Haiti**

Odule Augustin  
Kinvil Jean  
FEDUDEVH

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The Hong Kong Youth Federation

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HANDS on TECHNOLOGY e.V.

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*FIRST* LEGO League á Íslandi

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India STEM Foundation

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Mikrobot

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The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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MTÜ Robotika

**Lebanon**

Ghazi Mtaweh  
Cedars Cultural School-Education and Technology Center

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Kristijonas Vasiliauskas  
Robotikos Akademija

**Malaysia**

KingHui Law  
Kevin Wan  
Sasbadi Sdn Bhd

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Explora, Descubre Y Crea, AC

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**Montenegro**

Prof. Srdjan Kadic  
Young Inventors of Montenegro

**The Netherlands**

Tamara Derksen  
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**INNOVATOR**



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Natrona County School District

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**2016-2017  
FIRST TECH CHALLENGE**

The following key organizations and volunteers in the field organize the *FIRST* Tech Challenge program in their respective regions.

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Luan Heimlich  
Michael Heimlich  
Macquarie University

**Canada**

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**China**

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Semia Limited

**Chinese Taipei**

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ESUN Robot Association

**Czech Republic**

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**Egypt/Lebanon**

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TechnoFuture Egypt, Education & Technology Center Lebanon

**France**

Hayate Khennouf  
Phelma/Grenoble INP

**India**

Sudhanshu Sharma  
Techtronics Education

**Israel**

Yaarit Levy  
*FIRST* Israel

**Mexico**

Bárbara Gómez de Navarro  
Explora, Descubre Y Crea, AC

**The Netherlands**

Lennart de Graaf  
Fontys Hogeschool ICT

**New Zealand**

Jason Kyle  
Kiwi *FIRST*

**Republic of Korea**

Professor Kyoung-Mihn Do  
FEST (Feeling and Enjoying Science & Technology Organization)

**Romania**

Bogdan Enoiu  
BV McCann Erickson

**Russia**

Ekaterina Nikitina  
Oleg Deripaska Foundation Volnoe Delo

**South Africa**

Johannes de Vries  
Tshwane University of Technology

**United States**

**ALABAMA**

Renee Kozar  
Sheryl Darrow  
*FIRST* in Alabama

**ALASKA**

Brian Holst  
Juneau Economic Development Council

**ARIZONA**

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David Thompson

Northern Arizona University

**ARKANSAS**

Jacquelyn Basinger  
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Career Academies

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Gigi Johnson  
alt-NEXT

**CALIFORNIA – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Jill Wilker  
Mark Edelman  
Playing @ Learning

**CALIFORNIA – SAN DIEGO**

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Marion Brooks

**COLORADO**

Matthew Collier  
Kathy Collier  
*LAUNCH*

**CONNECTICUT**

Evan Barnet

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Georgia *FIRST*

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**ILLINOIS**

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**INDIANA**

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**LOUISIANA**

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ESUN Robot Association

**India**

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Techtronics Education

**Israel**

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**Republic of Korea**

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Natrona County School District

**2016-2017 FIRST ROBOTICS  
COMPETITION**

The following organizations partner  
with *FIRST* to implement the *FIRST*  
Robotics Competition program in a  
specified region.

**Australia**

Macquarie University

**Canada**

**ONTARIO**  
*FIRST* Robotics Canada

**ALBERTA**

*FIRST* Robotics Society (FRS)

**China**

China Urban Youth Robot  
Alliance (CUYRA)

**Israel**

*FIRST* Israel

**Mexico**

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios  
Superiores de Monterrey

**United States**

**ARIZONA**

AZFirst

**ALABAMA**

*FIRST* in Alabama

**ARKANSAS**

Arkansas *FIRST*

**COLORADO**

Colorado *FIRST*

**FLORIDA**

Florida *FIRST* Robotics Education  
Foundation, Inc. (FFREF)

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Georgia *FIRST* Robotics Inc.

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Friends of Hawaii Robotics

**IDAHO**

Rocky Mountain Robotics

**ILLINOIS**

*FIRST* Illinois Robotics

**INDIANA**

Indiana *FIRST*

**LOUISIANA**

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**MICHIGAN**

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*FIRST* Mid-Atlantic

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**MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS**

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*FIRST* Nevada

**NEW ENGLAND**

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**NEW YORK CITY**

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School-Business Partnerships of  
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*FIRST* North Carolina

**OHIO**

Ohio Aerospace Institute

**OREGON**

Oregon Robotics Tournament &  
Outreach Program (ORTOP)

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Palmetto Partners for Science  
and Technology

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**UTAH**

*FIRST* Utah

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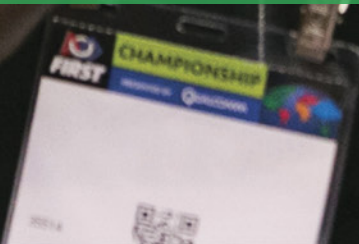
**WASHINGTON DC**  
*FIRST* Chesapeake

**WASHINGTON**

*FIRST* Washington



# Financials



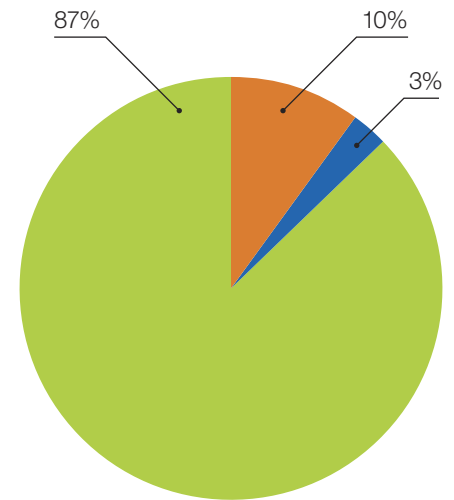
# Financials

Our programs' participation growth and mission successes continued once again in fiscal year 2017. We continue to have relatively balanced growth in both operating revenues and expenses, including additional investments in our Youth Protection Program, Information Technology, Program Evaluations, Diversity & Inclusion Program, and our Education Initiative. Contributions remained strong, as many individuals, small businesses, corporations – including over 200 of the *Fortune* 500 companies – and foundations maintained or increased their support, while many new sponsors joined *FIRST*. This contributed support provided very meaningful experiences to approximately a half-million youth engaged worldwide in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs.

As noted in the graph, and in keeping with long-time practices, *FIRST* continues to apply the maximum percentage of funds possible to directly benefit *FIRST* participants. Included within the modest G&A expenses are several significant investments in infrastructure enhancements, including those noted above.



*FIRST* achieved its twelfth consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator, certifying our continued commitment to accountability, transparency, and sound fiscal management. This consecutive rating places *FIRST* in the top 1 percent of the U.S. charities annually evaluated by Charity Navigator.



- Team services & growth of programs
- G&A expenses
- Fundraising costs

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	JUNE 30, 2017	JUNE 30, 2016
<b>Revenues and other support:</b>		
Program registration fees	\$ 28,433,710	\$ 26,625,176
Contributions and grants	14,720,452	15,760,543
Other income, net of expenses of \$102,065 in 2017 and \$98,515 in 2016	1,313,487	934,573
Special event income, net of expenses of \$395,911 in 2017 and \$434,286 in 2016	529,054	483,854
Net assets released from restrictions	27,339,944	22,253,335
<b>Total revenues (losses) and other support</b>	<b>72,336,647</b>	<b>66,057,481</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition	43,886,704	38,649,008
<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League and <i>FIRST</i> LEGO League Jr.	9,056,033	7,097,363
<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge	8,339,600	8,590,482
Net cost of building space occupied by unrelated not-for-profit organizations	268,304	257,648
General, administrative and supporting services, and fundraising	8,849,470	8,584,578
Operation of <i>FIRST</i> facilities	417,706	416,527
Depreciation	718,742	604,220
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>71,536,559</b>	<b>64,199,826</b>
<i>Operating surplus</i>	<u>800,088</u>	<u>1,857,655</u>
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	JUNE 30, 2017	JUNE 30, 2016
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents*	16,612,801	17,029,618
Short-term investments*	10,750,000	11,000,000
Pledges, receivables, program supply inventory, and other assets	15,572,532	12,684,582
Net property, plant, and equipment	5,294,793	5,060,032
<b>Total assets, end of year</b>	<b>48,230,126</b>	<b>45,774,232</b>
<b>Liabilities and net assets:</b>		
<b>Total liabilities, end of year</b>	<b>4,391,581</b>	<b>3,095,896</b>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	25,434,899	24,634,811
Temporarily restricted	18,403,646	18,043,525
<b>Total net assets, end of year</b>	<b>43,838,545</b>	<b>42,678,336</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 48,230,126</b>	<b>\$ 45,774,232</b>

For each of the two fiscal years summarized above, *FIRST* received unmodified (unqualified) opinions from its independent auditor, BerryDunn.

\*Note: The cash and short-term investments are comprised of both unrestricted funds and donor temporarily restricted funds. The total liquid assets balance available to *FIRST*, for operating purposes, at June 30, 2017, is equivalent to approximately four months of *FIRST* operating expenses.

The financial information presented here is condensed and does not include the value of all donated services and materials. Audited Financial Statements (AFS) are readily available on the website at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org) under "About/Annual Report." Certain amounts reported for 2016 have been restated. For details, please refer to the accompanying notes which are an integral part of the AFS, at the above web address.

# Leadership

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Robert K. Ortberg – Co-Chair

Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Rockwell Collins

### Robert M. Tuttle – Co-Chair

General Partner  
1848 Associates

### Dr. Laurie Leshin – Vice Chair

President  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

### Dr. Vincent Wilczynski – Treasurer

Deputy Dean, School of Engineering & Applied Science  
Yale University

### Dr. Donald E. Bossi – Secretary

President  
FIRST®

### Dean Kamen – Founder

President  
DEKA Research & Development Corporation

### John E. Abele

Founding Chairman, Retired  
Boston Scientific Corporation

### Virginia Addicott

President & Chief Executive Officer  
FedEx Custom Critical, Inc.

### Dr. Robin N. Coger

Dean, College of Engineering  
North Carolina A&T State University

### Walter P. Havenstein

Chief Executive Officer, Retired  
Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

### Karen Horting

Executive Director and CEO  
Society of Women Engineers

### Dr. Paul E. Jacobs

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
XCOM

### Lonnie Johnson

President and Founder  
Johnson Research and Development Corporation

### John H. Lynch

Former Governor  
State of New Hampshire

### Scott McKay

Former Executive Vice President of Business & Product Strategy  
Genworth Financial

### Dennis A. Muilenburg

Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer  
The Boeing Company

### Dr. David Siegel

Co-Chairman  
Two Sigma Investments

### Myron (Mike) E. Ullman, III

Chairman  
Starbucks;  
Chairman & CEO, Retired  
JCPenney

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

### Paul A. Allaire

FIRST Chairman: 1995-2000  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Retired  
Xerox Corporation

### J.T. Battenberg III

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Retired  
Delphi Corporation

### François J. Castaing

Executive Vice President, Retired  
Chrysler Corporation

### L. John Doerr III

Chairman  
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

### Gary L. Tooker

Chairman of the Board, Retired  
Motorola, Inc.

### James R. Utaski

FIRST Chairman: 2000-2002  
Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions Officer, Retired  
Johnson & Johnson

## SENIOR ADVISORS

### Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

President  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

### Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen

Deputy Chairman of the Board  
LEGO Foundation & KIRKBI A/S

### Dr. William P. Murphy, Jr.

Founder  
Cordis Corporation

### Steve Sanghi

Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer  
Microchip Technology, Inc.

### The Honorable

### Jeanne Shaheen

United States Senator  
New Hampshire

### Josh S. Weston

Honorary Chairman  
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

## EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

### Dr. Woodie Flowers – Co-Chair & Distinguished Advisor

Pappalardo Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### Kevin Ross – Co-Chair

Founder  
Washington FIRST Robotics

### Ray Almgren

Chairman  
FIRST in Texas

### Gail Alpert

President  
FIRST in Michigan

### Mark Breadner

President  
FIRST Robotics Canada

### Sujeet Chand

Chief Technology Officer & Senior Vice President  
Rockwell Automation, Inc.

### Cosema (Connie) Crawford, P.E.

Senior Vice President  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

### Michael Dubno

Head of Global Markets & Research Technology, Retired  
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

### Greg Hale

Vice President & Chief Safety Officer  
Walt Disney Parks & Resorts

### Erik Halleus

President & Chief Executive Officer  
EuroScandia Enterprises

### Luan Heimlich

Manager, Technology-based Outreach, Dept. of Engineering  
Macquarie University

### James E. Heppelmann

President & Chief Executive Officer  
PTC

### Marc Hodosh

Co-Creator  
TEDMED

### Kent H. Hughes

Public Policy Scholar  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

### Esben Stærk Jørgensen

President  
LEGO® Education

### David Lavery

Program Executive for Solar System Exploration  
NASA

### Paul Lazarus

President  
White Dwarf Productions

### Susie Mathieu

Partner  
Spirit Hockey, LLC

### Ceci Neumann

Independent Law Practice  
Professional

### Nancy Quan

Chief Technical Officer, North America  
The Coca-Cola Company

### Heidi Sipe

Superintendent  
Umatilla Public Schools

### Robert Sobolewski

President & Chairman  
ingenuityNE

### Dave Wilson

Vice President of Product Marketing, Academic  
National Instruments

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Donald E. Bossi

President  
FIRST

### Terry Durkin

Vice President, Finance  
FIRST

### Erica Fessia

Vice President, Field Operations  
FIRST

### Mark Giordono

Vice President, Development  
FIRST

### Mark Greenlaw

Vice President, Strategy and Impact  
FIRST

Listing current as of June 30, 2018

# Vision

*“To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.”*

— Dean Kamen, Founder



# Impact

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

*FIRST* participation is proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, inspire them to become leaders and innovators, and enhance their 21<sup>st</sup> century work-life skills.



# Mission

To inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

200 Bedford Street ■ Manchester, NH 03101 ■ 800.871.8326

[www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)

FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

