

FIRST[®] AND **BEYOND**

2019 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



TIMELINE

1989



Prolific inventor Dean Kamen founds **FIRST®** to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators. His hope is to transform culture by creating a world where scientists and technologists are held in the same esteem as pop-culture celebrities.



Tim Berners-Lee, an English engineer and computer scientist, invents the **World Wide Web** while working at CERN. The web was conceived to meet the demand for automated information sharing between scientists in universities and institutes around the world.

1992



28 teams of high school students compete in the inaugural **FIRST Robotics Competition** in a school gymnasium in New Hampshire. Sitting President George H. W. Bush attends the event.

1994



The 31-mile **Channel Tunnel** opens, connecting England to France via a railway across the English Channel. The Chunnel includes the world's longest underwater tunnel.

1995



The inaugural **FIRST Championship** is held at Epcot® at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, where it remains through 2002.

For 30 years, **FIRST®** has helped young people – and our mentors, educators, volunteers, sponsors, and alumni – **go beyond anything they could have imagined.**

Powered by an incredible, mission-driven global robotics community and evidence-based programs designed to ignite curiosity and encourage exploration, **FIRST prepares young people for the future.**

Just as previous generations led a movement that put the first human on the moon 50 years ago, the **FIRST** movement is leading the world into its next chapter and **building a better future for us all** – here on Earth and to Mars and beyond.

FOUNDER'S LETTER



Dean Kamen
Founder, FIRST

I founded *FIRST* in 1989 to inspire and recognize science and technology in young people. In fact, we were one of the first organizations to do it – setting in motion a movement to transform our culture to one where science, technology, engineering, and invention are celebrated, and young

people dream of becoming leaders in these fields as much as they do in athletics and entertainment.

We began with 28 robotics teams competing in a U.S. high school gym, and we've come a long way since then. In 2019, we celebrated our 30th anniversary. From just one season event in our inaugural competition year, this year we held 3,600 official *FIRST* events for four *FIRST* programs in over 100 countries – that's more than half the world's countries – and we capped it off with two international *FIRST* Championship events attended by more than 75,000 people.

By fueling curiosity and fostering community, *FIRST* builds tomorrow's challenge facers, risk takers, and change makers – what every young person can become, if supported. As our past 30 years have shown, leaders in education, industry, and community must work together to develop the future workforce and ensure it's one where everyone can succeed.

As our world grows more complex, having a meaningful understanding of science and technology is more important than ever for next generations to effect change. Among other incredible findings from our unrivaled longitudinal impact study (see page 6), *FIRST* participants are twice as likely as their peers to show gains in STEM knowledge. Even more critical are the inspiration and community that drive their desire to learn and move us forward. With 70% of *FIRST* alumni declaring engineering and computer science majors by their second year of college, we're quickly getting there.

KIDS LEARN BETTER AND GROW STRONGER WHEN THEY'RE SURROUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY COME FROM AND WHO CAN SEE THEIR POTENTIAL – PEOPLE LIKE YOU. AS AN ORGANIZATION, *FIRST* LEARNS AND GROWS STRONGER WHEN IT IS SUPPORTED BY YOU, TOO.

With your support, we're focused on expanding participation; improving equity, diversity, and inclusion in our programs; scaling our programs efficiently; ensuring sustainability; and achieving broad recognition. These strategic objectives have driven our actions these past few years, and they will continue to be our guiding pillars going forward.

It's thanks to the full *FIRST* community that *FIRST* participants have the confidence and strength to move past their toughest challenges and forge their way into the future. *FIRST* is uniquely positioned to reach deep into neighborhoods around the world to help young people overcome obstacles standing in their way and give them a place to belong – and yet there are still so many neighborhoods without access to *FIRST*. We must continue expanding our reach until youth robotics is as ubiquitous and accessible as youth soccer.

As we move into the next decade of *FIRST*, let's build a better future – together.

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This Annual Impact Report covers the period of July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019.

1996



The inaugural *FIRST* Scholarship is awarded by Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

1997

✧ *FIRST* Founding Sponsors (see page 33) pledge support to kickstart growth of *FIRST*. <<

G The domain name for the web search engine Google is registered.

1998



☞ *FIRST* and the LEGO Group partner to pilot a junior robotics program, *FIRST* LEGO League. 200 teams of students ages 9-14 participated.

2001

🎵 Apple releases the iTunes media player and first-generation iPod portable media player.



CO-CHAIRS' LETTER

This season of *FIRST*, it was **ALL SYSTEMS GO**. For the first time, *FIRST* programs were united under a common theme, *FIRST LAUNCH*, helping to further strengthen the connections between students and volunteers across our programs. This season brought together more than 570,000



Kelly Ortberg
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



Bob Tuttle
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

students with 175,000 volunteers and thousands more sponsors, donors, alumni, and other supporters who help fuel the mission of *FIRST* in 110+ countries.

We dedicated our *FIRST LAUNCH* season to space exploration to mark both 50 years of moon exploration and 30 years of *FIRST* inspiration. On that Sunday night in July 1969, when the first humans touched down on the moon, the world was united in celebration of human ingenuity and inspired by the possibility that by working together, we can quite literally reach the stars.

We hope this is the feeling *FIRST* has brought you, whether you've been involved in our community for 30 years or one. Just like all those who were involved in the Apollo 11 mission, the *FIRST* community is working together to solve problems and build a bright future. Thank you for being part of it.

We're especially grateful for the *FIRST* alumni who continue to be a part of our community. It's amazing to see what our alumni can accomplish thanks to the lasting impact of *FIRST*. Three decades of *FIRST* alumni are changing the world as entrepreneurs, community leaders, and key contributors to organizations like NASA, a *FIRST* Strategic Partner. While addressing the U.S. Congress, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine made an out-of-this-world case for supporting *FIRST* participants and alumni: "If you look at the people who are building our robots that are currently on Mars, they were participants in *FIRST* robotics when they were coming up through school. That's an amazing program that has paid dividends for NASA and, in fact, for the country."

Through our partnership with LEGO® Education, we're learning we need even earlier on-ramps for engaging children in STEM and preparing them for the future. In consultation with early childhood education experts, we developed the *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. Discovery Edition for teams of children ages 4-6 and will continue our pilot into next year.

Shortly before publication of this report, Dr. Woodie Flowers, an innovator in design and engineering education and an incredible advisor and supporter of our mission (see right), passed away. As thousands of heartfelt tributes to Woodie have poured in from around the world, it is clear his legacy will live on indefinitely through the gracious nature of our community and our ongoing commitment to empowering educators and building global citizens.

After nearly seven years of outstanding leadership, Don Bossi is retiring from his position as President of *FIRST*. During his tenure, *FIRST* teams have more than doubled in number and high-priority strategic initiatives were significantly advanced. We thank Don for all that he has done for *FIRST* and know he will remain a great supporter.

As an organization, our efforts will continue to focus on ensuring every kid has access to the STEM inspiration and knowledge our programs provide. Every day, the world changes a little more, and our problems grow a little more complex. That's why it's on us to support the young people who will join us in solving them. Using the tools we give them now, they'll change our future.



DR. WOODIE FLOWERS (1943-2019)

Dr. Woodie Flowers was Co-Chair of the *FIRST* Executive Advisory Board, Distinguished Advisor to *FIRST*, and Pappalardo Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Soon after Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*, he and Woodie collaborated on the development of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition. Woodie was also critical to establishing the ethos of *FIRST* by coining the term *Gracious Professionalism*® and nurturing its meaning in his every action.

Throughout the 30 years of *FIRST*, Woodie has been an incredible supporter of our mission, a friend to everyone he met, and an inspiration to our students, alumni, mentors, volunteers, supporters, and staff. Recipients of our Woodie Flowers Award (see page 25), past and future, will carry on his legacy as mentors who inspire young people through the art and science of engineering and design.

Throughout the 2020 season and beyond, the *FIRST* community will celebrate Woodie's life and legacy. Woodie's beloved wife, Margaret, has and will continue to be a key part of *FIRST*. She has graciously asked that those wishing to honor Woodie do so through the Woodie Flowers Memorial Fund:

firstinspires.org/woodie-flowers-memorial

2004



FIRST LEGO League Jr. is launched, bringing the FIRST experience to children as young as age 6.



Facebook is launched.

2005



FIRST Tech Challenge is introduced as a pilot program for middle and high school students.



The first video is uploaded to the online video hosting service, YouTube.

2007



→ President George W. Bush honors FIRST teams at the White House.



IMPACT THAT GOES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST PREPARES STUDENTS FOR A STEM FUTURE.

Our programs use strategies known to increase STEM interest among students in K-12. These include hands-on learning, working as a team on real life-life problems, exposure to careers and adult mentors, emphasis on FIRST Core Values (see page 13), and a culminating celebration where students can showcase what they created and learned.

These strategies increase students' awareness of STEM, which leads to increased interest and engagement and later influences their education and career choices.

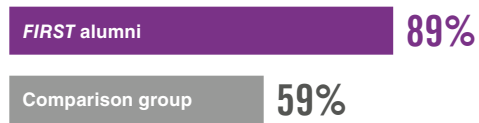
We are partnering with Brandeis University to conduct a multi-year longitudinal study measuring STEM-related impacts. Findings at 60 months from the FIRST Longitudinal Study (April 2019) provide evidence that after high school, student interest in STEM is sustained and results in increased actions, including taking courses in computer science and engineering and declaring STEM-related majors.

FIRST ALUMNI

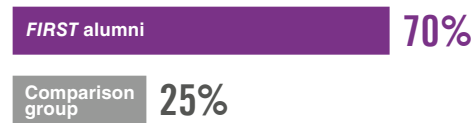
By sophomore year of college, *FIRST* alumni are more likely to be majoring in STEM fields than comparison group peers.*



DECLARE A MAJOR IN STEM



DECLARE A MAJOR IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE



WOMEN IN FIRST

Young women in *FIRST* have significant gains in all STEM areas including STEM interest, career interest, activity, knowledge, and identity compared to their non-participating peers.

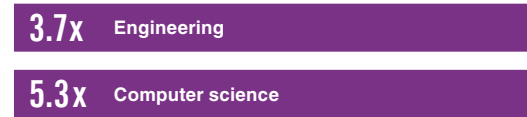
DECLARE A MAJOR IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

FIRST female alumni are more likely to declare majors in engineering and computer science than their peers.



TAKE COURSEWORK IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

Compared to their peers, *FIRST* female alumni are more likely to take coursework in engineering and computer science.



BENEFITS OF FIRST

Positive impacts are evident for all *FIRST* students regardless of race, gender, income, or community type.

FIRST students are three times more likely to show an increase in STEM interest than comparison group students.



FIRST STUDENTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO SHOW GAINS IN STEM OUTCOMES THAN COMPARISON STUDENTS



View more information about the study at www.firstinspires.org/impact.

“It’s been a few years since I participated in *FIRST* and I still find instances where I have more experience with problem solving and working with a group than many of my peers ... I can still credit *FIRST* as my catalyst for pursuing a career in engineering, but also as my first contact with problem solving, building, and designing.”

– *FIRST* female alum

*Comparison group includes students who did not participate in *FIRST* programs but were enrolled in science and technology classes at the same schools. SOURCE: *FIRST* Longitudinal Study, 2019, Center for Youth and Communities, Brandeis University; All differences statistically significant, $p \leq .05$

2008



FIRST creates Strategic Partner designation for top-tier FIRST sponsors that support FIRST at the highest level (see page 32).

2010



President Barack Obama honors FIRST teams at first-ever White House Science Fair.



FIRST LEGO League introduces the Global Innovation Award to honor students' solutions to real-world problems during the biomedical engineering-themed season.

2011



In a global first for artificial intelligence, IBM's Watson supercomputer defeats two humans on the "Jeopardy!" quiz show.

PROGRESSION OF PROGRAMS

FIRST combines the rigor of STEM learning with the fun and excitement of traditional sports and the inspiration that comes from community through a progression of programs that have a proven impact on learning, interest, and skill-building inside and outside of the classroom.

FIRST ALUMNI ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR MORE THAN \$80 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (SEE PAGE 43).



FOR AGES 6-10

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JR.

It's never too early to discover STEM

THE CHALLENGE:

Teams of children explore scientific concepts through a real-world theme. Kids then work together to build a model and, with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0, code it to make it move.

THE JOURNEY:

Each team documents its work in an Engineering Notebook and creates a *Show Me* poster to chronicle its research journey. In a season-culminating Expo, teams celebrate what they learned and created together.

THE OUTCOME:

Through their own research, critical thinking, and imagination, young children develop an early interest in STEM, learn to work together as a team to achieve a common goal, and have a ton of fun.



FOR AGES 9-16*

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Young innovators using skills and imagination to solve problems as a team

THE CHALLENGE:

Teams collaborate to design, build, code, and test LEGO® Education MINDSTORMS® EV3 robots for autonomous missions on a themed, table-top playing field. Each team works together to solve a real-world problem.

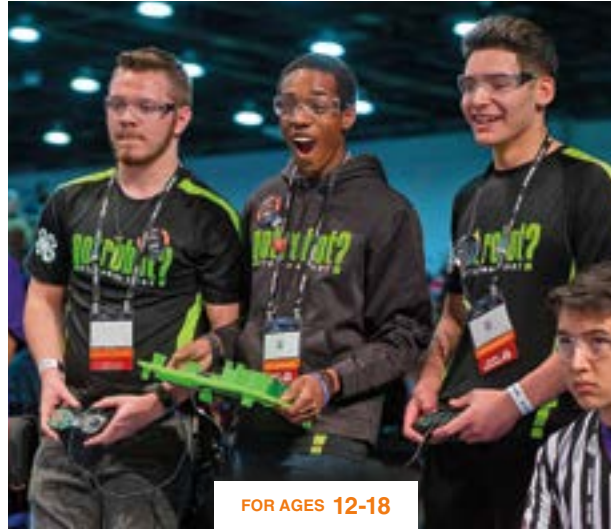
THE JOURNEY:

Each season culminates in a series of regional tournaments and championships, where teams compete with their robots and share what they've learned and invented.

THE OUTCOME:

Using STEM concepts, students overcome the same challenges that face scientists today. They develop critical-thinking and presentation skills, build self-confidence in STEM, and have fun while working as part of a team.

*Age varies by country



FOR AGES 12-18

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

It's way more than building robots

THE CHALLENGE:

Teams of students design, build, code, and operate Android smartphone-controlled robots to compete head-to-head in an alliance format. Students are encouraged to create team brands and reach out to their communities.

THE JOURNEY:

Teams compete at local and regional events, building up to the *FIRST* Championship. They earn awards based on their teamwork, creativity, innovation, and the engineering design process.

THE OUTCOME:

While developing their STEM skills and mastering engineering principles, students learn the value of persistence, innovation, and teamwork.



FOR AGES 14-18

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

An exciting sport built around the world of STEM

THE CHALLENGE:

Under strict rules, with limited time and resources, high school teams use sophisticated technology to build and program industrial-size robots for a challenging field game. Each team develops a brand, raises funds to meet its goals, and works to promote STEM in the local community.

THE JOURNEY:

At district and regional events, cheering crowds root for qualifying teams as students compete with their robots for prestigious awards and a coveted spot at the *FIRST* Championship.

THE OUTCOME:

As students learn real-world engineering concepts, they build their confidence and workforce skills, and connect with professional team mentors and sponsors who can help them succeed.

2012



FIRST LEGO League becomes “One Million Strong” and celebrates more than 1M STEM-learning experiences provided to children around the world.



NASA’s Mars Curiosity Rover, a giant mobile science laboratory, lands on Mars.

2013



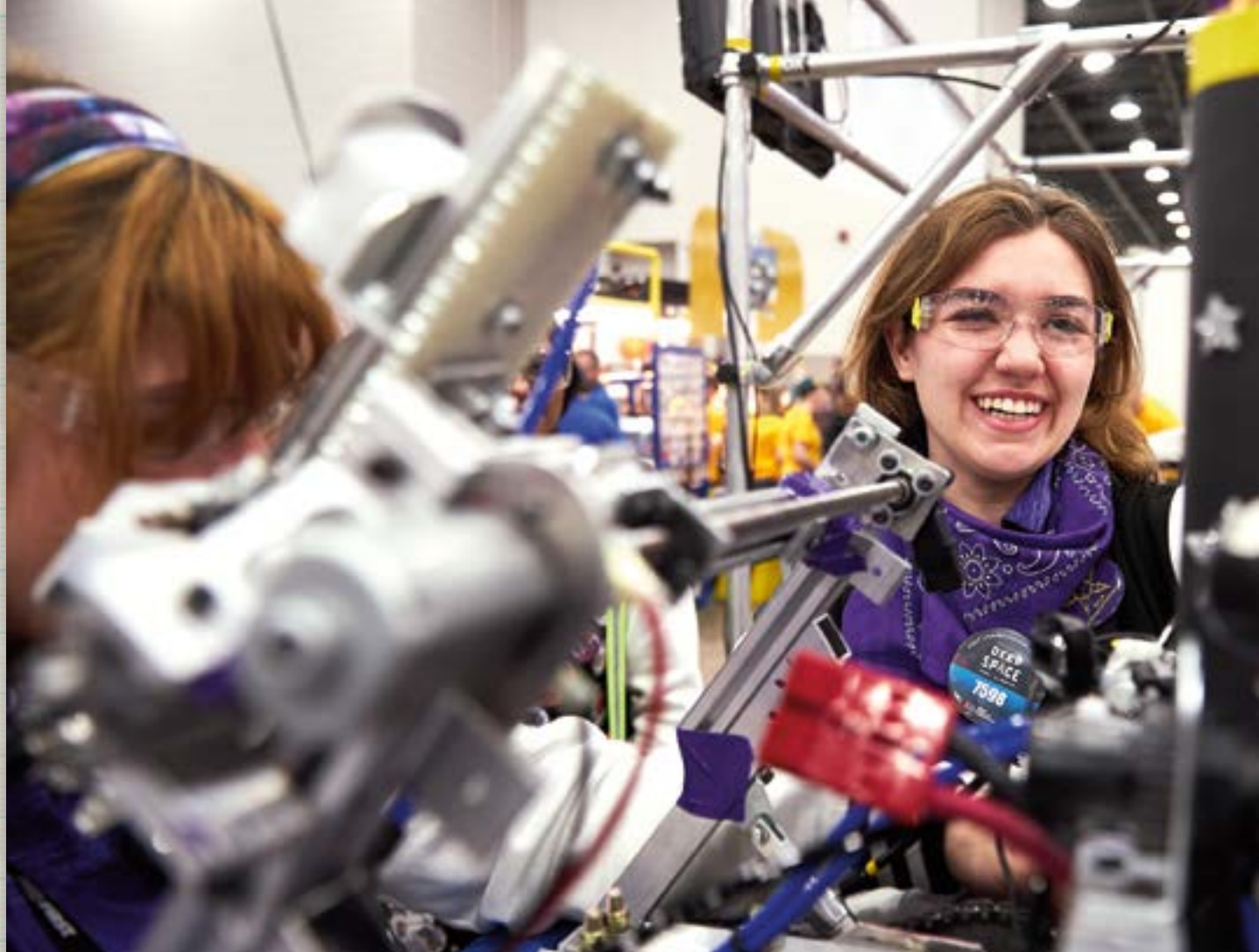
200+ Fortune 500 companies support FIRST.



The Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund is established, honoring Dean Kamen’s late brother, a pediatric oncologist.



FIRST robots cut the opening ribbon and lead the 87th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.



BEYOND BARRIERS & STEREOTYPES FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN IN STEM

Women account for one-half of the college-educated workforce in the United States, but less than one-third of the science and engineering workforce.*

Girls and women play a critical role in the advancement of STEM – but a significant gender gap remains within STEM careers. At *FIRST*, we are actively developing ways to address the overall issues and barriers, particularly in managing and allocating resources, programs, and educational opportunities fairly to all genders. We are committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community for all participants.

WHAT *FIRST* IS DOING:

- Launched online resources for elevating girls and young women in STEM
- Developed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) training modules for mentors and youth participants
- Facilitated grants to lower barriers to entry for underserved communities
- Collaborated with *FIRST* community-led initiatives such as #FIRSTLikeAGirl and LGBTQ+ of *FIRST* and nonprofits such as Society of Women Engineers, Girl Scouts, and Girls Inc. to raise awareness and access, including through women-in-STEM-focused panel sessions and representation on the *FIRST* Board of Directors and ED&I Youth Advisory Committee

PROGRESS:

- Over the past several years, young women’s participation in *FIRST* in the United States has risen steadily from 25% to 32%.
- Of the 29,800+ young people reached through *FIRST* ED&I strategic initiatives in 2019, 48% are girls and 90% are economically disadvantaged.
- Girls who join *FIRST* see amazing impacts. While all *FIRST* participants are significantly more likely to show gains in STEM than their classmates, girls in *FIRST* indicate even greater gains in STEM than boys in *FIRST* or their peers, according to the *FIRST* Longitudinal Study (see page 6).



TEEN SISTERS CREATE SPACE FOR GIRLS TO CODE

To close the gender gap in STEM, girls in *FIRST* should have equitable opportunities to fill all roles on their teams, including technical roles like coding. That’s what inspired sisters Parker and Greta Mayer to start the “Nerdy Girls” project. Parker and Greta give robot-building tutorials and mentor two *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams from their barn in rural Ellensburg, Washington. **EACH GIRL GETS A CHANCE TO BUILD AND CODE ROBOTS – AND EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF A ROBOT RUNNING HER CODE.** “WE WANTED AS MANY GIRLS AS POSSIBLE TO HAVE THAT FEELING,” said Parker. “Our ultimate mission is to target teams in rural areas to make trying to start robotics teams a little bit easier.”

The hands-on experience and supportive community they are providing is creating a pipeline for an exciting future for the “Nerdy Girls” and their families. “It’s made me hopeful for my kids’ futures in a way I haven’t been able to be for a very long time,” said Nikki Pollock, a team parent. “I really can see that she’s got a bright future, and I know how to get her there.”



ELEVATING VOICES OF GIRLS IN *FIRST*

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1902 “Exploding Bacon” from Orlando, Florida, started #FIRSTLIKEAGIRL as a local project targeting *FIRST* LEGO League students to combat a drop in female STEM participation during middle school. **IT AIMED TO HELP GIRLS FIND ROLE MODELS THEY IDENTIFY WITH AND ARE INSPIRED BY AND EMPOWER THEM TO BECOME ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE *FIRST* COMMUNITY AND FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS IN STEM.** #FIRSTLikeAGirl exploded to a global social media campaign within the *FIRST* community, engaging 2,200 *FIRST* teams from 70 countries. “Exploding Bacon” won the 2019 Chairman’s Award for their efforts.

2014



Dean Kamen's "Luke Arm," an advanced robotic arm prosthesis, receives approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

2015



FIRST and several U.S. states take steps to recognize robotics as an official extracurricular sports activity.



The inaugural FIRST, Inspire Gala is held in New York City honoring Michael Bloomberg, will.i.am, and FIRST alum Diana Lee Guzman for advancing STEM education in underserved communities.



The presence of water is discovered on Mars.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 6664 "LadyBots" is changing lives for young women from the Sonia Sotomayor Early College High School in Pharr, Texas, a high school that supports expectant and teenage mothers in completing their education. Students join the FIRST team to build skills that will help them succeed in their careers and gain support and encouragement from each other and other FIRST teams. **"JUST BECAUSE WE ARE MOMS, WE ARE NOT LIMITED IN WHAT WE CAN DO, AND WE ALSO BUILD EACH OTHER UP BECAUSE WE KNOW EACH OTHER'S HARDSHIPS,"** said FIRST alum Salma Sayas.



FIRST STEM EQUITY GRANTS REACH YOUNG WOMEN

When The Young Women's Leadership School (TYWLS) of Astoria launched a FIRST Tech Challenge team, student leader Tania N. said the team ignited a lot of interest for robotics at the school, with many girls approaching Tania to teach them how to build. **"I LOVE SEEING THE SPARK IN THEIR EYES. THEIR LIVES WILL CHANGE, JUST LIKE MINE DID. WE'RE GOING TO SEE MORE WOMEN IN STEM,"** said Tania.

The team's impact inspired them to apply for a 2018-2019 FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant. The funding enabled them to bring FIRST programs to three TYWLS locations in underserved communities in New York City, which school leadership says has been critical in fostering students' creativity, engagement in STEM, and teamwork skills. "TYWLS aims to develop future female leaders, and the competitive teamwork and entrepreneurship skills developed through FIRST clearly support this goal," said Michell Tollinchi-Michel, Managing Director of TYWLS at Student Leadership Network.

To learn more about FIRST Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives, visit firstinspires.org/diversity.



BEYOND THE ROBOTS

The *FIRST* Core Values encourage teams from all programs to become global citizens and create meaningful change within their communities and around the world. These stories are just a sample of the thousands of teams whose involvement in *FIRST* goes beyond robots.

FIRST CORE VALUES

We express the *FIRST* philosophies of *Gracious Professionalism*® and *Coopertition*® through our Core Values:

DISCOVERY *We explore new skills and ideas.*

INNOVATION *We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.*

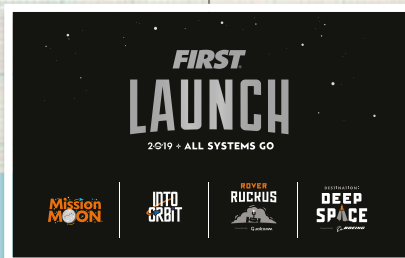
IMPACT *We apply what we learn to improve our world.*

INCLUSION *We respect each other and embrace our differences.*

TEAMWORK *We are stronger when we work together.*

FUN *We enjoy and celebrate what we do!*

2018



FIRST announces a landmark 2019 season theme celebrating space innovation and the organization's 30th anniversary – the first-ever unified cross-program season, *FIRST LAUNCH*.



The *FIRST* Scholarship Program expands to make available \$80 million in college scholarships to *FIRST* alumni.



Twelve underserved and underrepresented communities receive STEM Equity Community Innovation grants from *FIRST* to start *FIRST* teams and support inclusion strategies, reaching 3,820 youth on 615 teams.



Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, and *FIRST* alum Melissa Smith are honored at the fourth annual *FIRST*, Inspire Gala in New York City.



Donna Strickland, an associate professor in physics at the University of Waterloo, wins the 2018 Nobel Prize in physics. Strickland is only the third woman in history to receive this honor.

BEYOND THE ROBOTS CONTINUED



FIRST TEAMS BUILD FOR KIDS WITH MOBILITY NEEDS

In April 2019, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2987 “Rogue Robotics” from Farmington, Minnesota, received national attention from NBC Nightly News, CBS News, The New York Times, and other media when they built a customized power wheelchair for a 2-year-old boy with limited mobility. The team gained as much as they gave with the project: Team member Nicole Cash said, **“I THINK WE WON HERE MORE THAN WE DO IN OUR COMPETITIONS;”** while team member Alex Treakle said, **“THE JOY ON HIS FACE REALLY MADE MY ENTIRE YEAR.”**

“Rogue Robotics” is one of many *FIRST* teams creating customized wheelchairs by modifying ride-on toy cars for kids with mobility needs. *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 1939 “KUHNNIGITS” from Kansas City, Missouri, created an online forum where families in need across the

world can connect with local *FIRST* teams, download how-to manuals, and share their success stories. Teams come together for community build sessions where teams work together to build multiple cars at once.

The modified cars are a less-expensive alternative to power wheelchairs; a customized ride-on toy car costs about \$300 compared to several thousand for a motorized wheelchair. **THE CARS RESTORE PHYSICAL INDEPENDENCE, ALLOWING KIDS TO ACHIEVE CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES AND PLAY WITH THEIR PEERS AND FAMILIES.** Retrofitting a car allows teams to use the design, mechanical, and programming skills developed in *FIRST* to create a meaningful, life-changing impact on the recipient and their families.



TORNADOES PROVIDE NECESSITIES TO THEIR PEERS

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 7314 “Tornadoes” from Franklin, New Hampshire, lives in a school district where more than 60% of the students receive free or reduced lunch and approximately 8% are homeless. **THE TEAM WORKED TO EXPAND THE SIZE AND REACH OF THE SCHOOL’S MAKESHIFT THRIFT SHOP, “KARMA KORNER,” BY CONTACTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS TO SECURE SUPPLIES AND FUNDING.**

Through their outreach, the team was able to add a food pantry to Karma Korner, as well as purchase washers and dryers so students can clean their clothes at school. Team members spend several hours a week stocking the shelves and taking inventory to provide clothing, shoes, toiletries, school supplies, and food anonymously and at no cost to their peers. **“WE’RE NOT JUST ABOUT BUILDING ROBOTS; WE’RE ABOUT MAKING THE COMMUNITY WHOLE,”** team member Xiomara Head told the Concord Monitor.



BUCKETS BRING CLEAN WATER TO 7,000 PEOPLE

During the 2017-2018 *FIRST* LEGO League HYDRO DYNAMICSSM season, Team 7304 “Buckets” from Ravena, New York, established a nonprofit called We Give Water. **THEIR PROJECT BROUGHT TOGETHER SOLAR-POWERED DEEP-WATER WELLS, MOBILE PAYMENT SYSTEMS, AND CROWDFUNDING TO BRING CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED.** The team continued its work on We Give Water after the season and has raised more than its \$20,000 goal to fund clean water projects.

We Give Water implemented its first clean water system in June of 2019, bringing clean water to more than 7,000 people in the village of Wellingara Ba, Gambia. **“FIRST LEGO LEAGUE HAS BEEN A VERY POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND NOW WE’RE SEEING GLOBAL IMPACT AS WELL. THE HYDRO DYNAMICS THEME INSPIRED OUR CHILDREN TO BRING LASTING CHANGE TO THE WORLD,”** said team parent Kate Robertson.



FIRST SPARKS PASSION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Some *FIRST* alumni pursue public service after graduating high school. *FIRST* alum Amanda Pham said the strong role models she met through *FIRST* sparked her passion for volunteerism: **“I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THE VOLUNTEERS I ENCOUNTERED. I REMEMBER THE FIRST LEGO LEAGUE REFEREE WHO DANCED AT OUR TABLE, THE JUDGE WHO TOLD US SHE STOOD ON A CHAIR TO VOUCH FOR MY TEAM, AND THE PASSIONATE PARTNERS AND DIRECTORS WHO NEVER CEASED TO LOVE THEIR WORK.”**


After graduating high school, Amanda applied to be a national service member with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), a U.S. program that works to alleviate poverty by finding, training, and supporting full-time volunteers to build capacity for nonprofit organizations. She was even able to serve with *FIRST* as part of her service. Now that her VISTA service has ended, Amanda is pursuing her bachelor’s degree and is currently working at *FIRST* headquarters.

2019



FIRST Championship events in Houston, Texas, and Detroit, Michigan, see record numbers: 77,000 people from around the world participate in the two-week event. *FIRST* Championship remains the world's largest celebration of STEM for students.




"Good Morning America" highlights *FIRST* and the exciting sport of robotics in a segment reaching an audience of 4.2 million people in the U.S. 



FIRST LEGO League Jr. Discovery Edition is piloted, providing students ages 4-6 with hands-on STEM learning experiences.



FIRST introduces Class Packs, enabling educators to incorporate *FIRST* programs into their classroom curriculum. 



The first plants germinate on the moon, a landmark discovery for learning how well humans can grow food on the moon.

2020



The *FIRST* movement will continue to grow until every kid, everywhere, has access to transformative *FIRST* programs, as we work together to build a better future for us all.

FIRST ALUMNI

FIRST prepares students for life beyond high school: scholarships, careers, and beyond.

FIRST ALUMNI STAND OUT TO EDUCATORS AND EMPLOYERS.

They are smart, innovative, driven, and prepared for life beyond high school, whether they choose to pursue public service, continue their education, or dive into the workforce.

- The vast majority of *FIRST* alumni report more confidence in leadership roles, time management, creative thinking, perseverance, and problem solving after *FIRST* participation.
- 89% of *FIRST* alumni declare majors in STEM by year two of college, compared to 59% of a comparison group of students, according to the *FIRST* Longitudinal Impact Study conducted by Brandeis University.

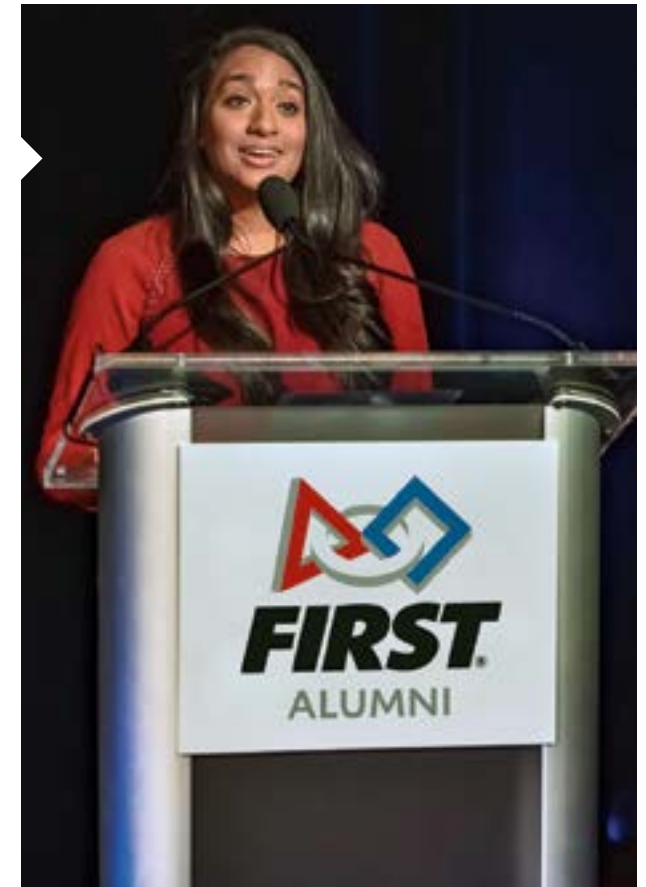
FIRST CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FIRST ALUMNI AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

- *FIRST* Scholarship Program (see page 43)
- *FIRST* Internship Portal
- *FIRST* Alumni Networking Groups
- Resources for career advice online and at *FIRST* alumni events

Learn more at www.firstinspires.org/alumni

"WHEN YOU BECOME A *FIRST* ALUM, YOU UNDERSTAND JUST HOW WIDE THE *FIRST* NETWORK REACHES AND JUST HOW WILLING AND EXCITED THAT NETWORK IS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS. I GOT INVOLVED WITH *FIRST* ALMOST NINE YEARS AGO, AND IT'S BEEN AMAZING TO SEE THE WAYS IN WHICH *FIRST* AND THE CONNECTIONS I FORMED THROUGH IT HAVE SHAPED MY JOURNEY EVER SINCE. I GRADUATED FROM A *FIRST* PARTNER SCHOOL, YALE UNIVERSITY, AND NOW WORK AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER FOR DEAN KAMEN'S R&D COMPANY, DEKA, WHERE I GET TO WORK EVERY DAY ON REALLY COOL, LIFE-CHANGING MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY."

—Naoka Gunawardena, *FIRST* alum and mechanical engineer





FIRST LAUNCH

2019 + ALL SYSTEMS GO

FIRST LAUNCH: A SEASON IN NUMBERS

4

space-themed challenges

570,000+

students in 110+ countries

300,000

mentor, coach, judge, and volunteer roles

20 million

volunteer hours served

3,500+

scholarship opportunities totaling \$80 million+ from 200+ providers

3,600

official events in 100+ countries

77,000

attendees at annual FIRST Championship

45,000+

robots constructed



**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE JR.**

AGES 6-10 (GRADES K-4)



Teams explored what they would need to live on Earth's Moon. They designed, built, programmed, tested, and improved a Team Model of a Moon Base to show their ideas for solving a challenge of living on the Moon. They used the MISSION MOONSM Inspire Model (a LEGO[®] rocket) in their design and LEGO[®] Education WeDo 2.0 to build and program a motorized part. Teams documented their journey in an Engineering Notebook and a *Show Me* poster.

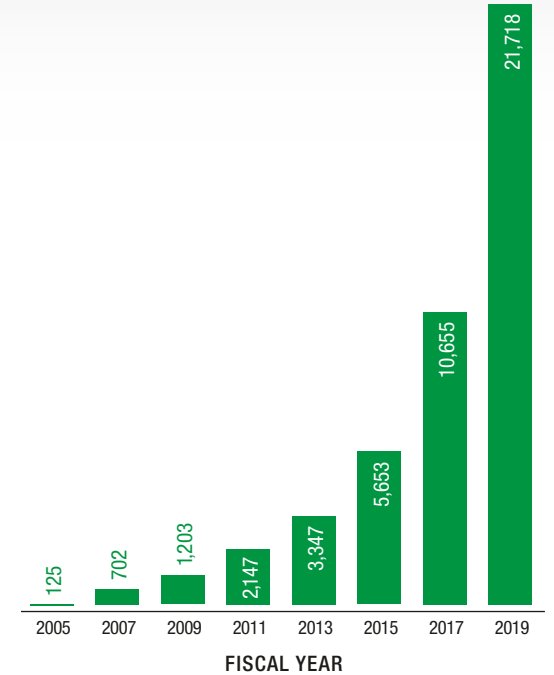


SEASON SNAPSHOT FIRST developed and piloted FIRST LEGO League Jr. Discovery Edition – aimed at providing age-appropriate STEM experience to build habits of learning – based on the LEGO Education STEAM Park and Duplo® system. This level of FIRST LEGO League Jr. focused on PreK-1 will roll out during the 2019-2020 season.

“WE HOSTED OUR FIRST-EVER KIPP NYC STEM FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JR. EXPO IN FEBRUARY 2019. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY KIND OF STEM EXPO ACROSS THE KIPP NYC NETWORK, AND THIS ONE WAS A REAL SUCCESS. WE HAD OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS ON A SATURDAY! **KIDS WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT THE MEDALS THEY RECEIVED THAT THEY WORE THEM FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK AFTERWARDS.** THIS REALLY HELPED SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND GET PEOPLE EXCITED.”

–Chéla S. Wallace, Director of K-12 Science, KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools (FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grantees)

TEAM GROWTH



SEASON FACTS

130,300 | **21,718**
 children | teams in 103 countries
 discovered the excitement of STEM.

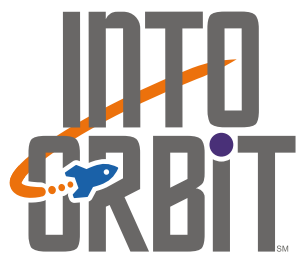
Teams presented their Team Model and Show Me poster in

984 | **68**
 events. | countries.



**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

AGES 9-16 (GRADES 4-8)



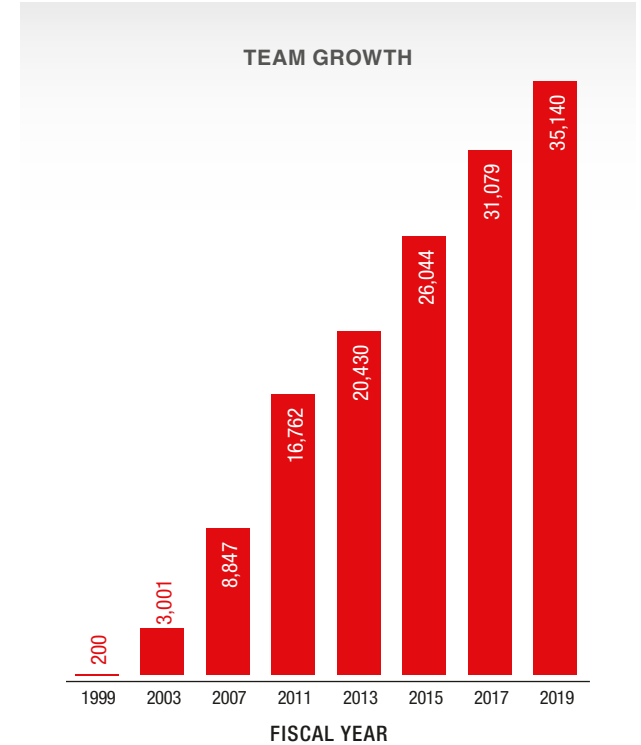
Teams worked together to break out of earthly constraints. They identified a physical or social problem faced by humans during long-duration space exploration and designed a solution. Each team also built and programmed an autonomous LEGO® MINDSTORMS® robot to solve missions on a playing field. Each mission represented the engineering and science behind space travel.



SEASON SNAPSHOT In its ninth year, the 2019 *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award ceremony brought together 20 semi-finalist *FIRST* LEGO League teams to celebrate their innovations in long-duration space exploration and attend workshops on crafting strong pitches, business models, user experience design, and more, led by supporters and sponsors. Inventions in space-friendly health care and clothing products received awards. Team FrancoDroid from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, won the top \$20,000 prize and also the inaugural 2019 Global Innovation People’s Choice Award.

“FIRST LEGO LEAGUE HAS HELPED ME BECOME A BETTER INNOVATOR, THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX, AND NOT TO BE SCARED TO TACKLE PROBLEMS LIKE SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SOLVE FOR YEARS. IT DOESN’T MATTER IF PEOPLE THINK YOUR SOLUTION IS TOO WEIRD OR TOO DIFFERENT TO WORK. WHEN YOU SHOW YOU CAN FIX A PROBLEM IN A NEW WAY, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND. THE FACT THAT IT WAS DIFFERENT IS WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL.”

– Camilla Salvagno, Student, *FIRST* LEGO League Team “iDB-Tech-No-Logic,” Verona, Italy (2019 Global Innovation Award Runner-Up)



SEASON FACTS

281,120 students

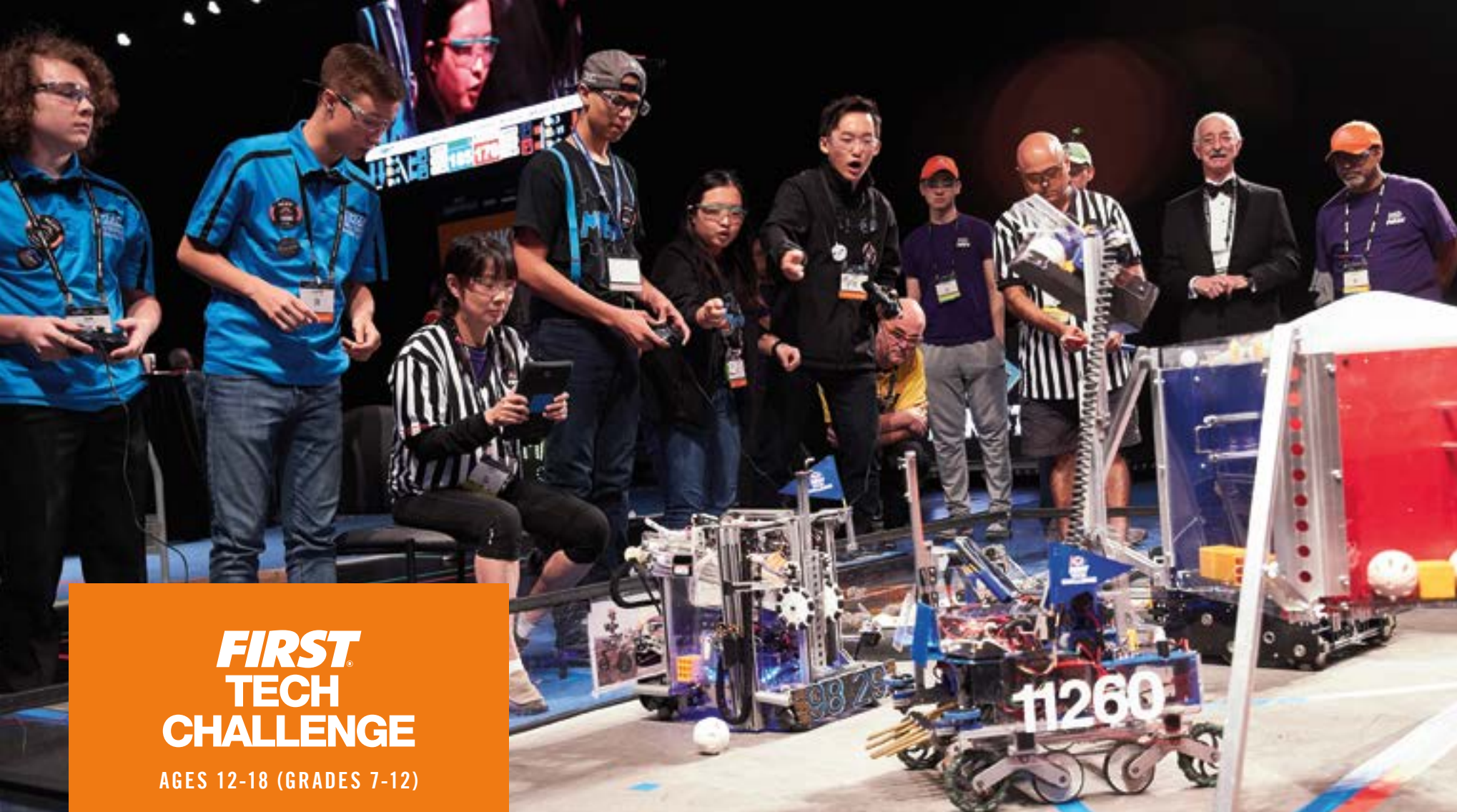
35,140 teams in 107 countries

explored what’s possible when we work together to solve pressing issues facing our planet.

Teams competed with their robots and shared what they learned through their projects and *FIRST* Core Values in

1,531 events.

107 countries.



FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

AGES 12-18 (GRADES 7-12)

ROVER RUCKUS



Presented By **Qualcomm**

Teams worked in an alliance to go on a space adventure. Students designed, built, coded, and operated sophisticated robots to descend from the lander, collect and sort minerals into the cargo holds, and perform autonomous tasks to compete on the field during two-and-a-half minutes of gameplay.

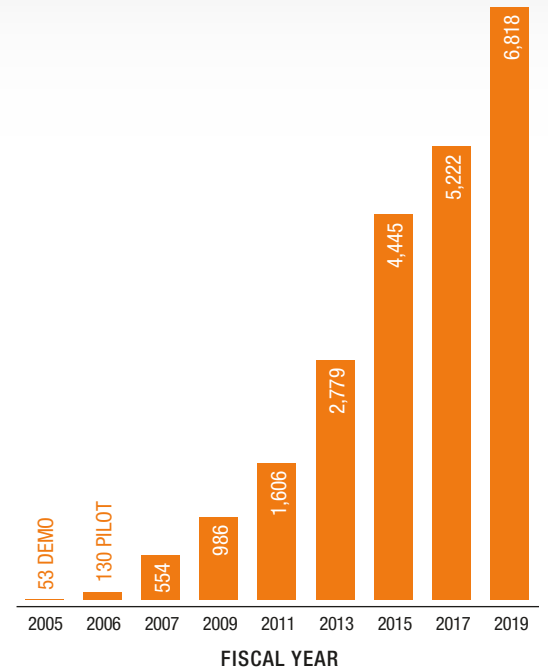


SEASON SNAPSHOT “Winning is temporary; Learning is forever.” That was the quote of the day from a winning team at the national championship for *FIRST* Tech Challenge Romania. 145 teams from all over the country gathered in Bucharest for the event held March 23-25, 2019. Romania experienced 61% team growth this season.

“MY MENTORS ARE MY HEROES. I DID NOT KNOW IT THEN, BUT I DEFINITELY KNOW IT NOW. I KNOW THE WORLD TO BE A CHALLENGING PLACE, AND I’M GLAD MY MENTORS TOOK THE TIME TO TEACH ME HOW TO FISH, INSTEAD OF FISHING FOR ME. *FIRST* GIVES YOU THE SKILLS TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN THE WORLD.”

—Connor Tinker, *FIRST* alum, *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team “Some Disassembly Required,” Clarksville, Maryland

TEAM GROWTH



SEASON FACTS

68,180 students
6,818 teams in 37 countries
 developed STEM skills, practiced engineering principles, and explored the value of teamwork.

Teams competed with their robots and to earn awards based on their teamwork, creativity, innovation, and community outreach in

877 events.
24 countries.



FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION
AGES 14-18 (GRADES 9-12)

DESTINATION:
DEEP
SPACE

Presented By  **BOEING**

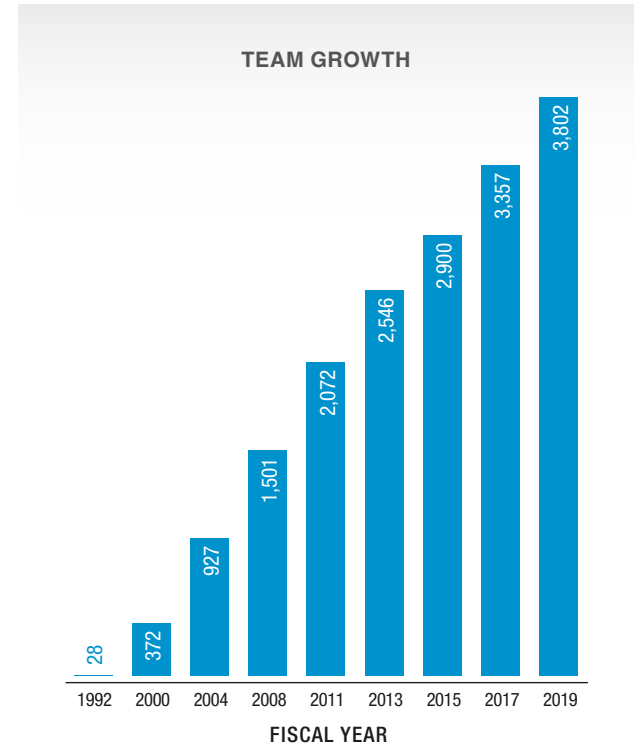
All systems go! Teams built and programmed industrial-sized robots to compete in alliances to collect samples on planet Primus. Unpredictable terrain and weather patterns made remote robot operation essential to their mission on the planet. With only two-and-a-half minutes until liftoff, the alliances were challenged to gather as much cargo as possible and prepare their spaceships for liftoff before the next sandstorm arrived.



SEASON SNAPSHOT For the first time, a *FIRST* alum received the Woodie Flowers Award, which celebrates an outstanding mentor who demonstrates excellence in teaching science, math, and creative design. **Allen Gregory IV**, who participated in *FIRST* Robotics Competition in high school and is now a mentor for Team 3847 “Spectrum-Δ-1” in Houston, Texas, received the high honor at the 2019 *FIRST* Championship.

“I’M SUPER PROUD TO BE A *FIRST* ALUM. THE PROGRAM SINGLE HANDEDLY CHANGED MY LIFE. I LEARNED LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC SPEAKING, HOW TO RAISE MONEY, HOW TO ACTUALLY BUILD A ROBOT, HOW TO DO PROGRAMMING, AND I MADE FRIENDS ALL AROUND THE WORLD.”

–Neil Parikh, *FIRST* alum, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team “Raider Robotix,” North Brunswick, New Jersey; co-founder, Casper



SEASON FACTS

95,050

students

3,802

teams in 35 countries

unlocked real-world engineering concepts, self-confidence, and workforce skills, supported by professional team mentors and sponsors.

Teams competed with their robots for prestigious awards in front of cheering crowds in

175
events.

6
countries.



***FIRST* HONORS JEFF BEZOS, CELEBRATES YOUNG CHANGE MAKERS**

The fourth annual *FIRST*, Inspire Gala brought hundreds of *FIRST* supporters to New York City on November 1, 2018, to raise funds to further expand access to *FIRST* programs and reach underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable students.

“HIGH-QUALITY STEM LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES LIKE ***FIRST*** CAN BE A GAME-CHANGER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PATHWAYS TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO BE LEADERS, INNOVATORS, AND CHANGE MAKERS.” –Don Bossi

“FIRST TRULY ALLOWS STUDENTS TO FEEL EMPOWERED TO SHAPE THEIR OWN DESTINIES.” –Melissa Smith

Jeffrey P. Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, received the “Leadership in Technology” Award. The award recognizes outstanding visionaries whose leadership in innovation and advancing technology has changed the way we live, work, and communicate. At the gala, Bezos sat down with journalist Walter Isaacson for an inspiring, forward-looking conversation.

FIRST alum Melissa Smith, a senior user experience researcher at Google, received the “Evelyn Kamen Rising Star” Award for her dedication to continuing to live the *FIRST* ethos in a way that is inspiring the next generation of *FIRST* participants. Melissa strives to share the excitement and possibilities STEM can offer people who otherwise may not encounter them. She continues her 18-year involvement in *FIRST* as a head referee and regional planning committee member at *FIRST* Robotics Competition events. “I was able to take my love for technological creation and development, that I learned through *FIRST*, and literally make a life’s work out of it,” said Smith.

Thank you to our *FIRST*, Inspire Gala sponsors who appear on page 41 of this report.

“YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO LEARN. WHATEVER YOU DO, CHOOSE SOMETHING YOU CAN BRING PASSION TO.” – Jeff Bezos



Don Bossi with Melissa Smith and her guest, Newton Smith.



Jeff Bezos speaks with Walter Isaacson on stage at the *FIRST*, Inspire Gala.



RECORD-BREAKING FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATES INNOVATION AND STEM INSPIRATION

For back-to-back weeks in April 2019, MORE THAN 77,000 PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD TRAVELED TO HOUSTON AND DETROIT TO CELEBRATE INSPIRING YOUNG INNOVATORS, LEADERS, AND CHANGE MAKERS at the 2019 *FIRST* Championship, presented by Qualcomm® Incorporated. The event brought together tens of thousands of students from around the world who participate in our programs – along with the passionate volunteers, educators, industry professionals, sponsors, organizations, and colleges/universities who support them – for a celebration of STEM inspiration and space exploration.

2019 FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

77,000
attendees

70
countries
represented

34,000+
team members (students, mentors,
coaches, and adult supporters)

2,200+
volunteers

1,300
robots

1,367,854,087
traditional media impressions

159,570,937
social media impressions

DEAN KAMEN PRESENTED THE 2019 FOUNDER'S AWARD TO RAJ SUBRAMANIAM, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF FEDEX, AT *FIRST* CHAMPIONSHIP IN DETROIT. FEDEX RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR ITS LONGTIME SUPPORT OF *FIRST*, INCLUDING SHIPPING THE KIT OF PARTS, ROBOTS, AND FIELD COMPONENTS, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, FOR *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAMS.





“THIS IS THE AGE WHEN A PASSION FOR INNOVATION STARTS WITH STEM. WE ARE COMMITTED TO GIVING TODAY’S STUDENTS THE FOUNDATIONS THEY NEED TO INVENT THE FUTURE AND ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT *FIRST*.”

– Angela Baker, Director of Corporate Responsibility at Qualcomm

THIRTEEN OF THE FOURTEEN STUDENTS ON *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM 7906 “UNDERDOGS” WERE REFUGEES FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES. NONE HAD STEM EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY JOINED THE TEAM. THAT DIDN’T STOP THE COTTONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL TEAM (SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH) FROM MAKING IT TO THE 2019 *FIRST* CHAMPIONSHIP IN THEIR FIRST YEAR. *FIRST* STRATEGIC PARTNER BOEING HEARD THEIR STORY AND SURPRISED THE STUDENTS IN HOUSTON WITH \$5,000 AND A DEDICATED BOEING MENTOR. “CONGRATULATIONS! LOOKING FORWARD TO YOU ALL BEING EMPLOYEES ONE DAY,” SAID JOHN BLAZEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF BOEING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT.

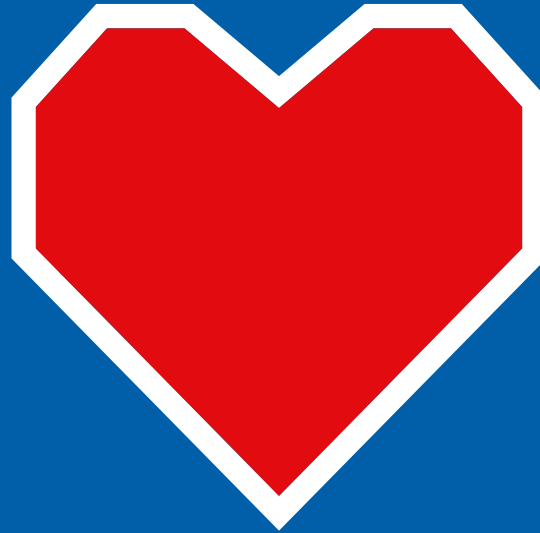
“I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO OUT TO NASA JET PROPULSION CENTER IN CALIFORNIA ... MANY WERE GRADUATES OF THE *FIRST* ROBOTICS PROGRAM. THEY WERE ALUMNI. THINK ABOUT THIS: TEN YEARS AGO, THEY WERE IN YOUR SEAT. TEN YEARS FROM NOW, WHERE WILL YOU BE? WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?”

– Jim Bridenstine, Administrator of NASA



HOUSTON MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER DECLARED APRIL 17, 2019, “*FIRST* CHAMPIONSHIP DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPACT OF *FIRST* ON HOUSTON’S YOUTH AND *FIRST* CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE CITY.

Thank you to our *FIRST* Championship sponsors who appear on page 42 of this report.



KENDRICKCASTILLO



The *FIRST* community is heartbroken by the death of *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 4418 “STEM Impulse” member Kendrick Castillo, who was killed after blocking a shooter at his Colorado high school, STEM School Highlands Ranch, on May 7, 2019.



***FIRST* COMMUNITY HONORS ONE OF OUR OWN: IN MEMORY OF KENDRICK CASTILLO**

The *FIRST* community is heartbroken by the death of *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 4418 “STEM Impulse” member Kendrick Castillo, who was killed after blocking a shooter at his Colorado high school, STEM School Highlands Ranch, on May 7, 2019. Kendrick quickly emerged in global media as an incredibly brave and selfless hero – one who was passionate about robotics and mentoring others and had a bright future ahead of him.

In response to the outpouring of support and desire to help by the *FIRST* community, we launched the Team 4418 Victim Support and Memorial Fund. The fundraising campaign was in support of Team 4418 and Kendrick’s parents, team volunteers John and Maria Castillo, as they grieve and memorialize Kendrick.

Donations poured in from the *FIRST* community, along with condolences expressing support and solidarity and heartfelt messages on social media. Over just a few weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 from over 1,200 donors. Donations came from 43 states and seven countries and were given by 180+ *FIRST* teams, plus many more *FIRST* alumni, staff, mentors, volunteers, parents, and other supporters. The family and team plan to use the fund to help others.

At a celebration of life memorial service for Kendrick, local teams from *FIRST* Colorado lined up outside the church with their robots, creating a robot procession in his honor. Inside, team mentor Dakotah Mann spoke about Kendrick’s legacy: “No matter how small his influence on each and every one of us, we have love in our hearts that he chopped, riveted, and welded together.”

SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

As we celebrate 30 years as a mission-driven nonprofit leading a global movement for preparing young people for the future, we know we couldn't have gotten here without the support of our sponsors, suppliers, donors, and other financial contributors. Their partnership, acknowledged on these pages, has helped us to inspire an entire generation of kids to pursue their dreams, big and small – and the best is yet to come.

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“I LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT *FIRST* PROVIDES TO YOUNG PEOPLE. I HOPE THAT MY DONATION HELPS SOMEONE TO FIND THEIR PASSION, THEIR CONFIDENCE, OR JUST A CHANCE TO LOOK AT STEM IN A NEW WAY.” —*FIRST* DONOR

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For 30 years, *FIRST* volunteers have fueled our mission by inspiring millions of young people to reach for the stars. Our hundreds of thousands of volunteers are part of a global support system we've built for young people who need a spark of curiosity and encouragement to launch their dreams.



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Punahou School

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ILLINOIS
Michael Seedman

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Darrin Wilcoxson
Crawfordsville High School

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Rebecca Whitaker
University of Iowa

LOUISIANA
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High Tech Kids

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MISSOURI
Susie Mathieu

MONTANA
Ed Huth
Oracle

NEBRASKA
Bradley Barker
Nebraska 4-H Youth Development

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FIRST Nevada

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Bruce Linton
ingenuityNE

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New Jersey Institute of Technology

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SUNY Polytechnic Institute

NEW YORK – EMPIRE
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Pace University

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of Long Island, Inc.

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North Carolina A&T State University

NORTH DAKOTA
Lee Gullingsrud
Bismarck Career Academy

OHIO
Linda Neenan
iSPACE, Inc.

OKLAHOMA
Randy Beutler
Southwest Oklahoma State University

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Erik Jonsson School of Engineering
and Computer Science

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Patrick Felty
FIRST in Texas

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FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION 2019 SEASON

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Macquarie University

Canada
ONTARIO
FIRST Robotics Canada

ALBERTA
FIRST Robotics Society (FRS)

Israel
FIRST Israel

México
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios
Superiores de Monterrey

Turkey
Fikret Yüksel Foundation

United States
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ALABAMA
FIRST in Alabama

COLORADO
FIRST Colorado

FLORIDA
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Georgia *FIRST* Robotics, Inc.

IDAHO
Idaho Regional Robotics Inc.

ILLINOIS
FIRST Illinois Robotics

INDIANA
Indiana *FIRST*

LOUISIANA
FIRST Louisiana-Mississippi

MICHIGAN
FIRST in Michigan

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
FIRST Mid-Atlantic

MISSOURI – GREATER KANSAS CITY
KC STEM Alliance

MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS
Saint Louis Science Center

NEVADA
FIRST Nevada

NEW ENGLAND
NE *FIRST*

NEW YORK CITY
NYC *FIRST*

NEW YORK – LONG ISLAND
FIRST Long Island

NORTH CAROLINA
FIRST North Carolina

OREGON
Oregon Robotics Tournament &
Outreach Program (ORTOP)

SOUTH CAROLINA
Palmetto Partners for Science
and Technology

TEXAS
FIRST in Texas

UTAH
FIRST Utah

VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON DC
FIRST Chesapeake

WASHINGTON
FIRST Washington



FINANCIALS

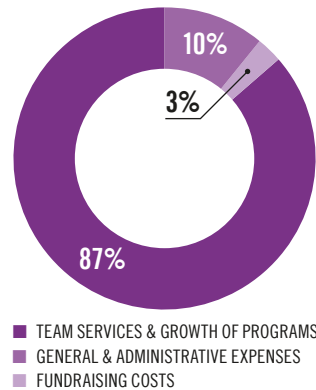
Our programs' participation growth and mission successes continued once again in fiscal year 2019. We continue to have relatively balanced growth in both operating revenues and expenses, including additional investments in our Youth Protection Program, Information Technology, Program Evaluations, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Program, and 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 more than a half-million youth engaged worldwide in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs.

As noted in the chart above, 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 general and administrative expenses are several significant investments in infrastructure enhancements, including those noted above.



FIRST achieved its 14th 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% of the U.S. charities annually evaluated by Charity Navigator.



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
Revenues and other support:		
Program registration fees	\$32,718,347	\$31,029,505
Contributions and grants	18,469,938	15,680,501
Other income	2,154,040	1,779,661
Special event income, net of expenses of \$396,560 in 2019 and \$404,980 in 2018	496,506	559,006
Net assets released from restrictions	30,951,062	27,968,209
Total revenues (losses) and other support	\$ 84,789,893	\$ 77,016,882

Expenses:		
<i>FIRST</i> Program Expenses	71,557,755	63,997,525
Net cost of building space occupied by unrelated not-for-profit organizations	295,730	320,596
General, administrative, and supporting services	8,990,597	7,987,326
Funding and Development	2,387,833	2,312,412
Total expenses	\$ 83,231,915	\$ 74,617,859
<i>Operating surplus</i>	<u>1,557,978</u>	<u>2,399,023</u>

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents*	27,748,958	24,324,389
Short-term investments*	12,000,000	9,740,000
Pledges, receivables, program supply inventory, and other assets	15,498,863	14,215,014
Net property, plant, and equipment	5,176,264	5,179,524
Total assets, end of year	\$ 60,424,085	\$ 53,458,927

Liabilities and net assets:		
Total liabilities, end of year	\$ 7,653,948	\$ 5,764,527
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	29,391,900	27,833,922
Temporarily restricted	23,378,237	19,860,478
Total net assets, end of year	\$ 52,770,137	\$ 47,694,400
Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 60,424,085	\$ 53,458,927

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, 2019, is equivalent to approximately five 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 our website at www.firstinspires.org under "About/Annual Report & Financials." Certain amounts reported for 2018 have been restated. For details, please refer to the accompanying notes which are an integral part of the AFS, at the above web address.

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Erica Fessia
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Mark Giordono
Vice President, Development
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Chris Rake
Vice President, Programs
FIRST

Listing current as of November 1, 2019

FIRST® IS A ROBOTICS COMMUNITY PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE FUTURE.

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, *FIRST* Founder

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.

IMPACT

For three decades, *FIRST* participants have developed self-confidence in STEM, meaningful friendships, and valuable, real-world skills that open pathways and help young people build a better future. *FIRST* programs are proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, but they also inspire kids to become leaders and innovators in any industry.

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