

FIRST | For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Every day at FIRST, we confront the problem of students' perception of education and careers in science, engineering, and technology.

Recently, The Wall Street Journal reported on a study in which students describe careers in engineering as "intimidating" and "uninteresting." They see engineering as too solitary and want interactions on a "human level." They think engineering is for the "socially awkward" and those "obsessed with work."

Unfortunately, these perceptions are no surprise. After all, we live in a world that tells kids they should view celebrity status or athletic achievement as the most realistic path to a life of success and meaning. They're told that options that demand their thinking, their energy, and their best, are not for them.

Yes, the perception problem is sobering. But for members of the *FIRST* community, it only strengthens our resolve. This is the problem *FIRST* was invented to solve. And this past year, we've seen significant evidence that *FIRST* is part of the solution.

Funded by The Ford Foundation, Brandeis University conducted an independent, retrospective study to assess *FIRST's* impact on students' academic and career paths. The findings are clear. In science, engineering, and technology, any perception problem is erased by the *FIRST* reality.

The study showed *FIRST* students don't avoid education in science and engineering, they seek it. They were twice as likely to major in a science or engineering field and three times more likely to major specifically in engineering when compared with a group of students with similar backgrounds and academic experiences, including math and science.

FIRST students don't want less education, they want more. They are significantly more likely than the comparison group to expect to pursue a postgraduate degree.

FIRST students don't spurn engineering career opportunities, they earn them. They are ten times more likely to have had an internship or co-op job in their freshman year than the comparison group.

Finally, *FIRST* students expect to pursue a science and engineering career more than twice as often as the comparison group. More detail on the findings from the Brandeis Study is provided later in this Annual Report.

As members of the *FIRST* community, we can draw encouragement from the confirmation that *FIRST* is making a difference. Yet, the solution is far from complete. So, we thank you for your effort and support and ask for your renewed commitment to bringing the power of *FIRST* to more young people.

Dean Kamen, Founder

John Abele, Chairman



FOUNDER

Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder
President, DEKA Research
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John Abele, FIRST Chairman Founder Chairman, Retired, Boston Scientific Corporation





FIRST Championship

THE 2005 FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE GEORGIA DOME IN ATLANTA WAS A CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MARKING THE CULMINATION OF THE FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION AND THE FIRST LEGO LEAGUE SEASONS AND INTRODUCING THE FIRST VEX CHALLENGE. THE EVENT INCLUDED:

- 9,300 STUDENTS
- 465 TEAMS
- 3 DAYS OF COMPETITION
- 5,000 MENTORS
- 500 VOLUNTEERS
- 19 COUNTRIES





Photography by Adriana Groisman



...The commitment of almost 17,000 mentors, parents, teachers, engineers, and community members was once again critical to bringing a *FIRST* experience to so many students...



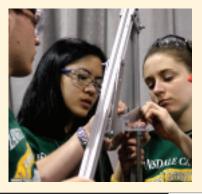
FRC continued to offer students opportunities for an exciting education and career path in science, engineering, and technology. Scholarship offerings for *FIRST* participants reached almost \$8 million and represented some of the finest engineering colleges and universities in the country.

The success of FRC was a direct result of the effort and energy of *FIRST's* volunteers. The commitment of almost 17,000 mentors, parents, teachers, engineers, and community members was once again critical to bringing a *FIRST* experience to so many students. FRC sponsorship continued to grow as well with over 1,700 corporations, foundations, and agencies funding teams and events.

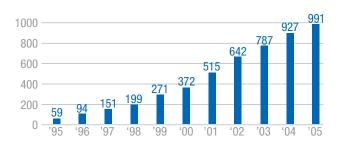
The season's finale took place at the *FIRST* Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA where 8,500 students on 340 FRC teams from 4 countries came together to compete with gracious professionalism and celebrate science and technology.

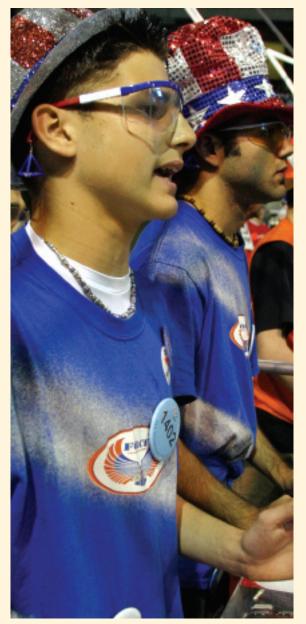






FIRST Robotics Competition Team Growth









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"...teams not only defined ways to make the environment easier for everyone to use, but also worked

with communities to make the changes happen..."

In the 2004/05 season, FIRST LEGO League continued to serve as a powerful and efficient driver of growth for FIRST. FLL grew to over 48,000 middle-school-aged students participating. Overall, 5,859 teams participated in more than 380 qualifying events and official tournaments in 23 countries around the world.

Through the 2004/05 "No Limits" Challenge, teams explored ways in which technology and creative thinking can combine to help people with physical disabilities meet the everyday challenges faced in simple tasks such as walking, reading a distant sign, or climbing stairs. In addition to the robot competition, the challenge included a research project in which students assessed whether their school or community facilities were accessible to people with physical disabilities. Many FLL teams not only defined ways to make the environment easier for everyone to use, but also worked with communities to make the changes happen.

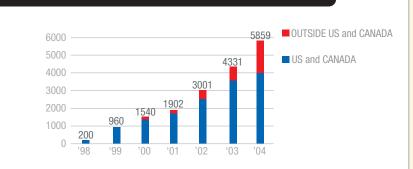
Corporate support for FLL remained strong in 2004/05 with The LEGO Group continuing in its role as our key corporate partner and The 3M Company once again supporting FLL as program sponsor. FLL also announced the addition of National Instruments and SAP, who join the FLL team as International Sponsors for the 2005/06 season.

The culmination of the season was the inaugural FLL World Festival, part of the *FIRST* Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA. Seventy four accomplished FLL teams from seventeen countries celebrated their season's accomplishments both on the playing field and off, strengthening the international community of *FIRST* LEGO League.





FIRST LEGO League Team Growth











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Updates

FIRST Vex[™] Challenge

At the 2005 Championship, FIRST introduced the FIRST Vex Challenge (FVC), a mid-level robotics competition for high-school students. FIRST believes FVC can offer a classic FIRST challenge with a more accessible and affordable robotics kit. FIRST will pilot the FIRST Vex Challenge in 2005/06 to help decide its long-term role. RadioShack, FIRST Official Sponsor, funded development of FVC and the pilot season. Innovation First, a long-time FIRST supporter, developed the original FIRST Robovation kit and initiated the collaboration of FIRST, RadioShack, and Innovation First, which led to FVC.

Junior FIRST LEGO League

In 2004/05, FIRST LEGO League piloted a Junior FIRST LEGO League (JFLL), focusing on 6-to-9-year-olds. Approximately 150 JFLL teams of up to five members applied their thinking and creativity to a small-scale version of the "No Limits" challenge. The LEGO Group is a key supporter of JFLL.

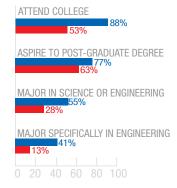
FIRST Impact: Brandeis University Evaluation

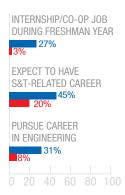
FIRST continues to work with Brandeis University's Center for Youth and Communities at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management to provide tangible evidence of our impact on students' academic and career paths. Recently, to assess impact on program participants, Brandeis conducted an independent, retrospective survey of FIRST participants and compared results to a comparison group of non-FIRST students with similar backgrounds and academic experiences, including math and science. FIRST is pleased with the findings. When compared with the comparison group, FIRST students are:

- -More than three times as likely to major specifically in engineering (41% versus 13%).
- -Roughly ten times as likely to have had an apprenticeship, internship, or co-op job in freshman year (27% versus 3%).
- -Significantly more likely to expect to achieve a post-graduate degree (Masters or higher: 77% versus 63%).
- -More than twice as likely to expect to pursue a science or technology career (45% versus 20%).
- -Nearly four times as likely to expect to pursue a career specifically in engineering (31% versus 8%).

IMPACT: FIRST Robotics Competition Evaluation







Junior FIRST LEGO League

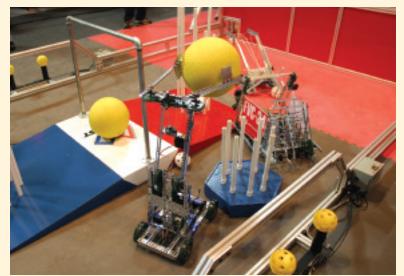








FIRST Vex Challenge









IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL 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, AND THE THOUSANDS OF SPONSORS OF *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION, *FIRST* LEGO® LEAGUE, AND *FIRST* VEX CHALLENGE TEAMS AND EVENTS. *FIRST* COULD NOT ACHIEVE THE POWERFUL IMPACT IT DOES WITHOUT THIS TREMENDOUS SUPPORT.

Shape Magazine

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Benge Ambrogi FRC Chief Referee

Outstanding Volunteer

Benge Ambrogi's history of volunteering is the stuff of FIRST legend. In 12 years of contributing his creativity, energy, and problem-solving skills, Benge has helped in most every area, including game design, fabricating field components, and building prototype robots. Long-time FIRST fans remember the placebo robots he built to stand in for missing machines, especially the one that won the match. Today, as FRC Chief Referee, Benge's responsibilities include developing game rules, perfecting referee training, and ensuring consistent officiating in all matches. For extensive service to the entire organization, Benge Ambrogi is FIRST's 2005 Outstanding Volunteer.



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Engelstad Arena

The University of North Dakota School of Engineering and Mines

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Paul Copioli Team 217. Utica Community Schools, Sterling Heights, MI

Woodie Flowers Award

Each year, FIRST recognizes an outstanding engineer or teacher who best demonstrates excellence in teaching science, math, and creative design. A sample of the delightful prose from the nomination submitted by his team for Paul Copioli, Mentor, Team 217, makes it clear why he is the 2005 winner:

A passion for young people

A passion for robots

A major source of help to anyone who asks

Five years of dedicated, year-round service

A major FLL organizer

A remote kickoff and FRC Regional announcer

A major off-season FRC organizer

A robotics competition social event organizer

An FRC Regional master of ceremonies

An Unsung Hero on Chief Delphi Forums - three times

Accused of "perpetual excitement"

Involved in the details of making machines work

Involved in the details of making teams work

Involved in the details of making the mission of FIRST work

by letting us know at 1-800-871-8326.



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(Ten or more teams in 2005)

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As a Founding Sponsor, Johnson & Johnson embraced a leadership role early in the development of FIRST and has never looked back. In a decade of support, the J&J family of companies has consistently been at the forefront of growing FIRST. The company's increasing commitment includes support as title sponsor of the FRC New Jersey Regional, as direct sponsor of 17 teams, as a provider of employee mentors and volunteers, and as a key contributor to the FIRST Annual Fund. J&J has also been an active and effective recruiter of additional high schools, teams, and sponsors to help bring the opportunity of a FIRST experience to more schools and students.



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Team 67, "The HOT Team" of
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represents a model for other teams
and best embodies the purpose and
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Team 9, "Boys & Girls Clubs of
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FINANCIALS

The following, abbreviated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Ernst and Young LLP (E &Y) audits our organization's financial statements annually; copies of *FIRST's* audited financial statements and accompanying notes are available via the *FIRST* website at www.usfirst.org under "About *FIRST*."

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, there were no audit findings and *FIRST* received an unqualified opinion from its auditors. Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-133 audit of the organization's Federal grant programs had no findings or questioned costs. *FIRST* continues to be qualified as a "low-risk" auditee.

Ausets 2005 2004 Cash and equivalents \$4,894,462 \$3,890,610 10,916,10 Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$27,000 in 2005 and \$18,314 in 200 367,213 13,479,10 Poeper y, plant and equipment (PP&E): 5,562,731 6,010,967 Let as accumulated depreciation 2,175,666 1,158,709 Net PP&E 4,387,005 4,158,709 Peparl expens and other asses 18,100 100,075 Total assets 37,400 50,2273 Defered revenue and other credits 37,400 50,2273 Defered revenue and other credits 37,400 50,2271 Refundable advances 2,500,800 2,701,000 Total liabilities 3,902,221 5,044,666 Temporarily restricted 1,371,856 2,007,273 Total liabilities and net assets 2,002,271 5,044,666 Temporarily restricted 5,902,221 5,044,666 Temporarily restricted 2,902,221 5,044,666 Temporarily restricted 2,902,221 5,000,665 Total liabilitie	STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		June 30
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STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES Year ended June 30 (2005) 2004 Revenues and other support: 2005 2004 Program registration fees \$9,837,085 \$7,676,438 Contributions 528,2335 5,226,492 Rental income 558,764 552,699 Event package revenue - Championship 0 133,293 Other income 415,889 304,725 Net assets released from restrictions 1,602,310 525,692 Special sponsorship 500,000 0 Total revenues and other support 13,176,451 10,837,289 FIRST Robotics Competition 13,176,451 10,837,289 FIRST Robotics Competition 13,176,451 10,837,289 FIRST Vex Challenge 323,257 0 FIRST Vex Challenge 47,264 68,308 Event package expenses – Championship 0 133,293 Management and general 2,411,966 1,989,827 Operation of building 316,375 320,755 Depreciation 318,570 261,239 Topor <	Total liabilities and net assets	\$10,461,942	\$10,100,645
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Operating expenses: Incomposition In			
FIRST Robotics Competition 13,176,451 10,837,289 FIRST LEGO League 1,124,943 708,199 FIRST Vex Challenge 323,257 0 FIRST Place 47,264 68,308 Event package expenses – Championship 0 133,293 Management and general 2,411,966 1,989,827 Operation of building 316,375 320,755 Depreciation 318,570 261,239 Total operating expenses 17,718,826 14,318,910 Operating income 477,557 100,339 Non-operating gains: Refundable advances – amortization 140,200 140,200 Excess of revenues over expenses 617,757 240,539 Net assets released from restriction for purchase of property, plant and equipment 239,698 0	Total revenues and other support	18,196,383	14,419,249
FIRST Robotics Competition 13,176,451 10,837,289 FIRST LEGO League 1,124,943 708,199 FIRST Vex Challenge 323,257 0 FIRST Place 47,264 68,308 Event package expenses – Championship 0 133,293 Management and general 2,411,966 1,989,827 Operation of building 316,375 320,755 Depreciation 318,570 261,239 Total operating expenses 17,718,826 14,318,910 Operating income 477,557 100,339 Non-operating gains: Refundable advances – amortization 140,200 140,200 Excess of revenues over expenses 617,757 240,539 Net assets released from restriction for purchase of property, plant and equipment 239,698 0	Ohavating onhances		
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Net assets released from restriction for purchase of property, plant and equipment 239,698 0	Refundable advances - amortization	140,200	140,200
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	•	239.698	

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