

Building Blocks To Innovation
2009 Annual Report



It's a world where science and technology are celebrated. Where ordinary youth ages 6 to 18 can accomplish extraordinary things. Where competition is fierce but cooperation between adversaries is rewarded. Where technology-savvy adults can mentor the next generation of budding scientists and engineers. The goal of FIRST® is to develop in the world's young people a lasting interest in science and technology through participation in a "sport for the mind."

### Inspiring young minds

Founded by Dean Kamen in 1989 to "turn young people on" to career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, FIRST is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that designs accessible, motivational programs combining teamwork, competition, and just plain fun. FIRST helps young people build self-confidence, knowledge, life skills, career paths, and a sense of "Gracious Professionalism" This year, thanks to more than 85,000 committed adult volunteers, more than 196,000 young people from all U.S. states and 50 other countries were introduced to the joys of problem solving through engineering.

### Building blocks of learning

Four different FIRST programs, starting in elementary school and continuing through middle and high-school levels, act as building blocks to help participants master skills and concepts they take with them from one level to the next. Tapping into the selfless support of thousands of volunteers, mentors, sponsors, educational institutions, and government, teams from six to more than 25 students each accept the challenge to do research or to fund, design, build, and compete with robots of their own creation in local, national, and international contests

### Changing lives, one at a time

FIRST brings people of all ages and backgrounds together with the goal of making a positive impact on how kids think about themselves and what they'll do with their lives. Some team members design and build robots. Others help raise funds and create publicity. Some create team names, logos, and competition outfits. The skills they learn along the way all but guarantee them extraordinary career opportunities in a host of exciting fields.

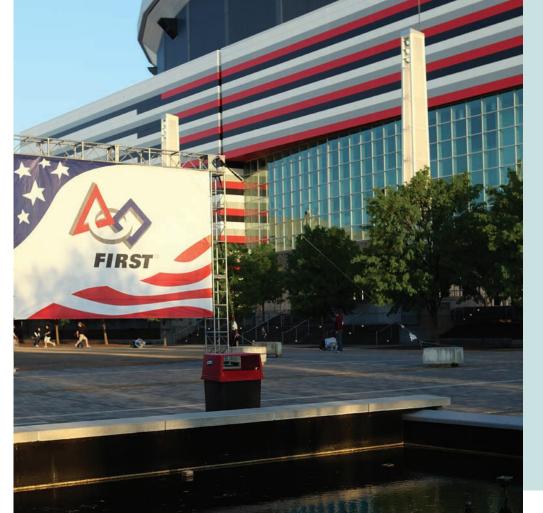
### An outlet for giving back

FIRST represents an exceptional opportunity for motivated individuals, institutions, and corporations to get involved in something that helps young people today, and will provide dividends for all of us tomorrow. We hope you will consider joining with FIRST in our guest to change the world for the better, igniting one young mind at a time.

### And that's what FIRST is all about

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

FIRST learning never stops building upon itself, starting at age six and continuing through middle and high-school levels up to age eighteen. Young people can participate at any level. Participants master skills and concepts to aid in learning science and technology through robotics.



JYF8LL Junior FIRST® LEGO® League

As founder and

Grades K-3 (ages 6-9)

### Challenge

Construction and Research

### Components

LEGO® Education Simple & Motorized Mechanisms Set LEGO® Education We Do™

> Robotics Construction Set **Disciplines** Basic STEM\*

### Showcase

Thematic Design/Model Building Show-Me Poster

### Software

LEGO® Education We Do™ Robotics Construction Software

### **Teaches**

Basic STEM\*

Interpersonal Skills

Building Skills

Team Work

Interactive Problem Solving

Gracious Professionalism™

Introduced in 2009 "Smart Move" Season

celebrated inventor Dean Kamen explains

"Someday, some kid in FIRST right now will cure Alzheimer's, or cancer, or build an engine that doesn't pollute. They're the future, and we're part of it by helping them figure out what to do with their lives."

FIRST Facts 2009



Youth participants 196,000 (ages 6-18)

Mentors and volunteers 85.000

> Number of hours donated by volunteers 5.715.980

U.S. States participating

Countries participating

FRC recognition 56,000 medallions, 2,900 trophies

3,780 medallions, 495 trophies

FTC recognition

**FLL** recognition

40.000 medallions. more than 1,000 trophies

> Scholarships available 630 worth close to \$9,800,000

> > Corporate sponsors

Advanced Control Business Planning

LabVIEW™, C++, Java™

Teaches

Engineered Product for Real World **Engineering Constraints** 

Industrial Design

Project Management

Team Work

Time & Project Management

Reliability

Strategic and Tactical Thinking

Coopertition™ Gracious Professionalism™ meaningful learning experience

23%

FLL FIRST®LEGO®League

Grades 4-8 (ages 9-16) ages 9-14 in the US and Canada

### Challenge

Construction and Thematic Solution Construction, Programming, and Research

### Components

LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education Robot Set & Custom Assembled Field Component Set

### **Disciplines**

STEM\*

### Competition

Programming

Thematic Problem Solving

Research Project

**Exhibition and Robotic Competition** Team Work

### Software

LEGO® MINDSTORMS® **Education NXT-G** 

### Teaches

Cause & Effect

Team Work

Programming Research & Presentation

Critical Thinking

Gracious Professionalism™

### Challenge

**FTC** 

FIRST® Tech Challenge

Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

Engineering (real-world engineering challenges)

### Components

Pitsco TETRIX™, LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education Robot Set. Sensors and Controllers

### **Disciplines** STEM\*

Real-World Competitive Challenge/ Sporting Event

### Software

LabVIEW™, RobotC, NXT-G

### Teaches

Programming

Sensor Usage **Advanced Control** 

**Engineering Method** Real-Time Prototyping

**Project Management** 

Industrial Design

Team Work Tactical Thinking

Gracious Professionalism™

### Challenge

FRC

FIRST®Robotics Competition

Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

Engineering for results; industrial grade up to 130 lb. robots

### Components

FIRST Radio Control Set, Sensors and Controllers, Motors, Advanced Visual Systems

> **Disciplines** STEM\*

### Competition

Sporting Event

### Software

FRC donated parts 389.300

Number of robots constructed 16.374

Growth of FIRST participation (over 2008)

Participants who have a

\*STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering, Math



"There will never be a shortage of opportunities for people who know how to solve problems."

Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder

### Founder's & Chairman's Letter

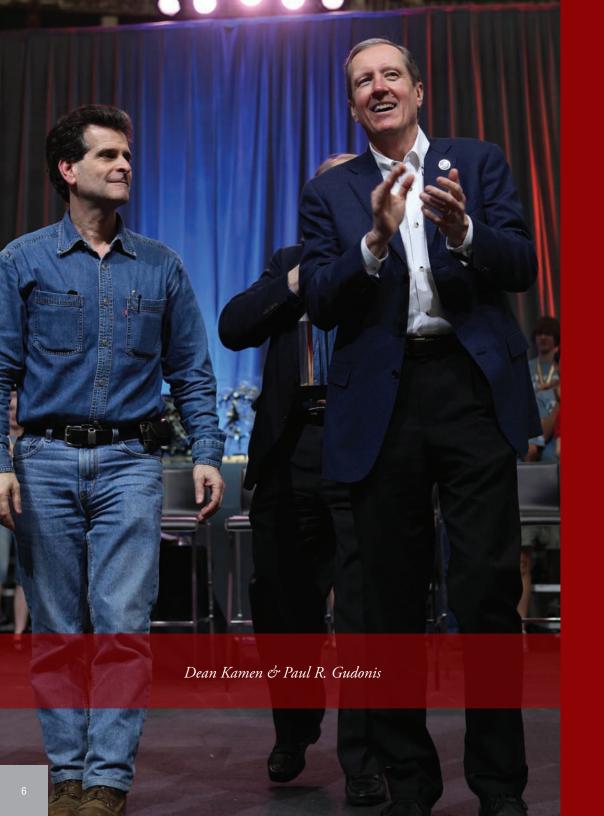
Science and the world of *FIRST* share the commonality of building blocks. Just as scientists, engineers, and inventors use the building blocks of recorded prior knowledge and discovery to create new wonders, or to improve on old ones, *FIRST* participants meld their own discoveries and problem-solving skills with those of their teammates, coaches, and predecessors to innovate new solutions to their current challenges.

That's the beauty of *FIRST* – young people can jump into any program at any time, learn new skills and concepts, and bring those building blocks with them as they move through the more challenging (and fun) programs and on to college and careers. The younger we can "hook" them on the fun and excitement of science and technology, the better chance we have of producing a new generation of innovative problem solvers who will literally change the world. We believe there are kids in *FIRST* right now who will cure cancer, or build a non-polluting engine, or win a Nobel Prize, or innovate solutions to problems about which we do not yet know. Moving through the continuum of our four programs gives them a chance to discover what they are capable of, how far they can go, and the many rewarding career opportunities awaiting them in science and technology.

Our students' ideas, enthusiasm, creativity, can-do spirit, inquisitiveness, and don't-know-it-can't-be-done spark are the building blocks to the innovations of tomorrow. Which means we need to renew our efforts to support and expand the *FIRST* family of programs into as many corners of the globe as possible. In 2009, record numbers of you volunteered your talents, experience, vast amounts of time, and financial support. To every mentor, volunteer, sponsor, parent, and team member, we humbly thank you. Many more of you will be needed from our schools, our communities, and our corporations. To help us continue to grow, we urge you to be a *FIRST* "building block," sharing your enthusiasm and passion for this truly amazing organization with those around you. Let's all invest in some really talented kids.

Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder

John Abele, FIRST Chairman



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"This is the only sport I know of where everybody who plays can become a pro."

Walter P. Havenstein, CEO, SAIC

### President's Letter

The stories continue to amaze me.

A young woman tells me she is a volunteer mentor because as a high-school sophomore contemplating dropping out, she was encouraged to join the school's *FIRST* robotics team. She ended up graduating from high school, earned a college degree in mechanical engineering, and is now a product designer. She now "gives back" because of the huge impact *FIRST* had on her life.

A mother says, "Thank you, FIRST. You changed my son's life. He struggled in high school, and thanks to a patient, encouraging mentor, he is now in college on a FIRST scholarship, with aspirations that would make any mother proud."

One team member I met has just applied for his first patent – he's 16! Another is using his newly-developed skills to overcome a visual disability by developing a distance vision system so that he can get a driver's license, and then offer this technology to millions of other visually-impaired individuals. Another convinced her state legislature to provide \$150,000 in funding to start more *FIRST* teams.

There are thousands of such stories of inspiration, innovation, and contributions of time, talent, and resources to create the science and technology heroes we need in our future. On behalf of the *FIRST* board of directors and staff, I want to thank the 85,000 volunteers, 3,500 corporate sponsors, and the many teachers, parents, friends, and fans that make *FIRST* happen. Through your support, hundreds of thousands of young people are participating in this "sport for the mind," changing our culture – and our lives – for the common good.

Despite the economic challenges, through your personal efforts and financial support, *FIRST* was able to engage more youth for another record year of team growth. We are poised to do so again in the coming season, with new *FIRST* Robotics Competition events in North Carolina, Utah, and Massachusetts; with new *FIRST* Tech Challenge volunteer partners in 10 states; with additional *FIRST* LEGO League partners, coaches, and teams; and with a growing number of six to nine year-olds in the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League program. Thank you for igniting the passions of these students and helping to create the innovators our society needs.

Paul R. Gudonis, FIRST President

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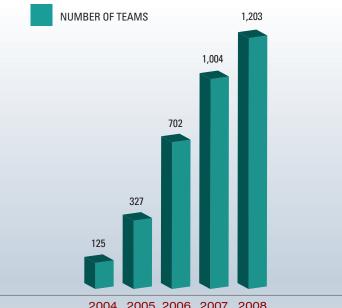




In its fifth year, the Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) program grew 20 percent to reach a total of 1,203 teams in the U.S. and Canada. Geared toward six to nine year-olds (Grades K-3), Jr.FLL introduces the youngest of school-age children to the fun and excitement of solving problems with science and technology. Guided by adult coaches, teams of up to six children are presented with a real-world challenge based on the same theme as the FIRST® LEGO® League program, to be solved by research, critical thinking, and imagination. In the 2008 "Climate Connections" Challenge, teams investigated the earth's climate, built LEGO models made out of LEGO elements including a moving part, and created a Show-Me poster depicting their research journey.

### Junior FIRST® LEGO® League

Jr.FLL teams are encouraged to gather together to share their projects and experiences with family and friends. In 2008, more than 40 Expos were held in communities across the U.S. and Canada.



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

"FIRST gave me the ability to work with my son as a mentor and to teach the values of sportsmanship. We have ignited the flame of enthusiasm for grades K-5."

Doug Geiman, Jr.FLL® Coach

### Ш



Back row - From left to right:

Coach Dr. Pellom McDaniels III, Ellington (age 7), Jack (age 8), Seth (age 8), Coach Chad Philips Front row - From left to right: Blaise (age 9), Nora (age 7), Ben (age 9).

### Coach Dr. Pellom McDaniels III

Dr. Pellom McDaniels III, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, was introduced to robotics when his six-year-old son pleaded to be taken to a local FIRST event. The seeds of excitement sown that day inspired not only father and son, but an entire community.

Dr. McDaniels, assisted by parents and teachers, formed the Brainiac Attack Robotics Club (BARC) at Academie Lafayette French Charter School in Kansas City, Missouri, to participate in Junior FIRST LEGO League. They learned respect for the environment and how they can have an impact; researched real-world problems; asked questions, sought answers, and deliberated over their ideas; and enjoyed traveling and meeting other teams. As their confidence grew, they explored robot building and simple programming in preparation for their progression to FIRST LEGO League.

Today, BARC has grown to three teams. Working with FIRST LEGO League Operational Partner, Anna Simmons, Dr. McDaniels has also grown the Jr.FLL presence in the area. To bring in more children from underserved schools in the urban core, the pair trains teachers and counselors to add robotics to their curriculum. The schools, in turn, recruit parents to run teams. As a result, people see that it's not difficult to implement the Jr.FLL program, it just takes a coordinated effort. Starting from the excitement of a six-year-old, an entire community now works to turn youngsters on to science and technology.







### Marking its tenth anniversary season,

the FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) grew 25 percent to a total of 13,705 teams participating in 50 countries. The 2008 "Climate Connections" Challenge asked teams comprised of nine to sixteen year-old children (nine to fourteen in the U.S. and Canada) to apply research and robotics to explore the earth's

climate. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technologies and LEGO Education materials, more than 137,000 children learned about past climates, delved into questions about our current climate, and explored conditions for the future through missions such as minimizing climatic influences, sequestering greenhouse gases, studying wildlife, and preparing for climatic conditions. The season included more than 450 qualifying events, 89 Championship Tournaments, and two Open Championships. It culminated at the FLL World Festival, where 84 teams gathered to celebrate their accomplishments and share their innovative solutions.

### FIRST® LEGO® League

Every FLL Challenge reflects an important real-world issue as a way to create awareness among young children, but also to show them how science and technology can contribute to solving problems. FIRST thanks the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Geosciences; the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL); and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Collective Intelligence, for helping develop a theme and robot missions reflective of the hurdles that scientists experience relative to climate study. NUMBER OF TEAMS 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

"ME a Coach? I could never do that. Well, two years under my belt and many 'Ah-Ha' moments later, I must say this is an adventure I'm glad I took."

Rhonda McMillen, FLL Coach and Mentor

## PROFILE



Clockwise from the left

Faith (age 12); Aydan (age 10); Alejandro (age 12); Bobby (age 12); Andrew (age 11); and Drew (age 10)

### "LEGO Guards" Team, Meadow Vista, CA

As children living in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains, the homeschooled 5th to 8th graders who make up the "LEGO Guards" FLL team are acutely aware of the devastating effects of wildfires. These young environmentalists participated in the 2008 FLL "Climate Connections" Challenge, devising an early wildfire detection system that could save lives, land, and property around the world. Their creativity really paid off.

Their solution uses a network of solar-powered closed-circuit TV cameras mounted throughout forests and linked to the Internet. Citizen fire watchers view the images on the Web to obtain advance warning of fires before they spread.

One of 56 teams from 29 countries chosen to attend the May 2009 Children's Climate Call (FLL Open European Championship) in Copenhagen, Denmark, organized by The LEGO Group and *FIRST* Scandinavia, the "LEGO Guards" were awarded the event's Sony® Climate Change Innovation Award. Working with Sony engineers and technologists to refine the idea and turn the concept into reality through a series of workshops, the team participated in key decisions, such as the type of Sony camera used and the software interface for users as they keep a lookout for fires.

The "LEGO Guards" are seeing their solution become a reality. The first camera was installed in the Lake Tahoe, California, area in November 2009, and the team exhibited their proof of concept on the Sony stand at the Bright Green Exhibition in Copenhagen during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in December 2009.

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using a variety of programming languages.

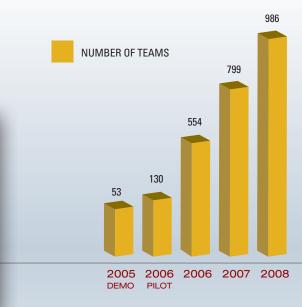
FIRST® Tech Challenge



For the 2009 season, more than 10,000 high-school students joined the ranks of the FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®). In 39 Regional Tournaments across the U.S. and Canada, 986 teams participated, with 100 of them securing a coveted spot to compete in the World Championship in Atlanta. In FTC's "FACE OFF!" challenge, teams of up to 10 students tried to outscore their opposing alliance by removing colored hockey pucks from eight different racks around a playing field and placing them in various locations in the center scoring area. Teams and their robots were also challenged with a rough or slippery terrain located in four areas of the field at the start and the end of the match. Guided by adult mentors and using engineering principles complete with an engineering notebook, FTC teams designed, built, and competed with a re-useable robot kit

### FIRST® Tech Challenge

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is the newest and the fastest-growing FIRST program. Teams of up to 10 high-school students who want to compete head-to-head using a sports model get to design, build, and program robots. One of the most accessible programs, FTC applies real-world math and science concepts and develops problem-solving, organizational, and team-building skills.



"We teach according to the frameworks of the Department of Eduation, but this is how we draw them in.... The students love this and it really drives home the mathematics and science principles they are learning, and in a fun way."

Josselyn Winter Electronics Teacher Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

# PROFILE



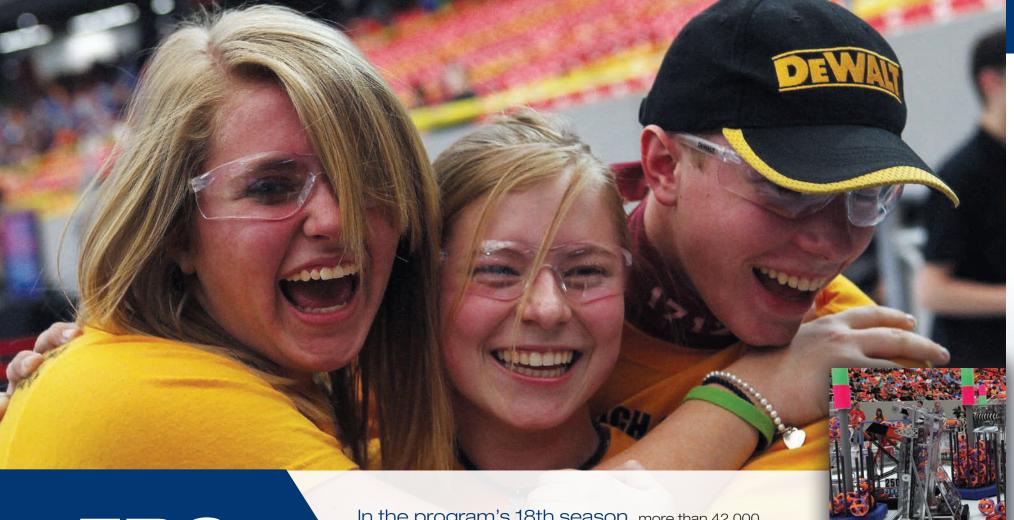
### Mannie Lowe, Georgia

Mannie Lowe will be the first to acknowledge he was a bit skeptical when his employer at the time, Applied Systems Intelligence, asked him to evaluate where he could provide support to *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC®) teams. A professional project manager, Lowe was astounded at the design-build skills of *FIRST* teams, but found out that where they really needed help was in programming and project management.

What began as some corporate volunteer work quickly led to mentoring, pit announcing, coaching, regional planning committee involvement, and organizing for both the Peachtree FRC Regional and the Georgia FTC Tournament, and now, as FTC Affiliate Partner.

Mannie is committed to ensuring the quality of the FTC experience for students through expanded matches and qualifiers. His goal this year is to have a third field in place for Georgia's FTC Championship tournament. He believes strongly that FTC provides a great opportunity for students to advance through *FIRST*, with smaller teams, more hands-on work, accessible cost, and playing greater roles in a cohesive unit.

"We can quickly gauge if we're delivering a quality experience when we see the smiles on the students' faces. I love the program, I love the friends I've made, and above all, I'm proud of the contributions I've been able to make through FIRST. Without question, I would not have my present job as a technology instructor at Pace Academy if it weren't for FIRST."



### FRG FIRST®Robotics Competition



In the program's 18th season, more than 42,000

high-school students (1,683 teams, including 321 Rookie teams) from 48 states and 10 additional countries accepted the challenge

to compete in LUNACY<sup>TM</sup>. The game paid homage to the Apollo 11 mission during NASA's 40th anniversary of landing a man on the moon in July 1969. Navigating on a low-friction floor, robots were designed to pick up nine-inch 'Orbit Balls' and score them in trailers hitched to their opponents' robots for points during a two minute and 15 second match. Additional points were awarded for scoring a special game ball, the 'Super Cell,' in the opponents' trailers during the last 20 seconds of the match. Teams participated in 40 Regional Competitions, seven District Competitions, one State Championship (MI), and the international Championship at the Georgia Dome, Atlanta GA. All team members were eligible to apply for over \$9.8 million in college scholarships from over 130 providers

### FIRST®Robotics Competition

With the goal of creating a school-to-career pipeline through which young people are inspired to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), FIRST has the philosophy that today's culture can be positively transformed by inspiring young people, their schools, and their communities to appreciate the need for STEM education in 21st century education.



1992 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

"I'm standing in front of some of the best and the brightest in the U.S. and from around the world, and I know you are going to do things that people said could never be done."

Joe Astroth. Ph.D. Vice President of Learning and Education, Autodesk



### Mike Hayes, Man of Science and Mystery

What compels a man of science and technology to focus on his artistic side? Ironically, for mechanical engineer Mike Hayes, it's FIRST.

A supply chain quality process leader for GE Transportation and theater buff, Mike has been a FIRST volunteer since 1998 and mentor to Team 291 since 1999. Along the way, Mike discovered a satisfying and lucrative way to combine his love of science and theater. Hayes writes, directs, produces, and performs "murder mystery" dinner plays whose profits support local FRC teams. During the past 11 years, he has raised over \$100,000 for the teams.

"Solving a mystery and conquering a design challenge aren't really all that different," Hayes says. "Both present you with a puzzle that is solvable, but only by paying attention to the details. And in both cases, it's an awful lot of fun to know that you've solved it."

Hayes' theater group does one production a year conceived from a variety of subjects, including politics, the Internet, and the nightly news. His current show is titled Zootsuits and Zipguns. GE is the major sponsor, underwriting food and providing the performance facility. The "actors" are a combination of GE employees, FIRST students, and people who just want to have fun. Hayes says it's not too difficult to corral the players. "All you need is a sense of adventure, a good sense of humor, and a knack for improvisation."

Hayes never loses sight of the ultimate goal: inspiring more young people by raising money for FIRST. With that in mind, he has a robot present at every performance so that "people can see what they are supporting by their attendance."

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 Tech Challenge. FIRST LEGO League, and Junior FIRST LEGO League teams and events. FIRST could not achieve the powerful impact it does without this tremendous support.

FIRST thanks all of our supporters and makes every effort to ensure complete and accurate listings. If we've made an error, please accept our sincere apology, and please help us correct it by letting us know at 1-800-871-8326.



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John Novak presents award to John Novak John Novak and his wife planned their wedding around FIRST and he warned her beforehand that he "had a thing for robots." An engineer at Baxter Healthcare, science, math, and creative design. system with more than 70 other teams. John has helped the team survive tough times. He and his wife started a paperit on time.



John has been a dedicated and irreplaceable presence on FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 16 "Baxter Bomb Squad" of Mountain Home, Arkansas, since the team's formation in 1996. At the FIRST Championship in Atlanta, John received the 2009 Woodie Flowers Award for demonstrating excellence in teaching Team members describe John as "the heartbeat and the brainwave of the

Bomb Squad." From creating an electronics club to teaching evening engineering classes, John has given students the ability to independently use the knowledge he shares. He and his students volunteered to be a Beta test team for the new FRC control system, creating a road show to share their findings about the new

shredding business to help with team finances and gave some team members much needed part-time jobs. He converted the basement of his home into a team build room. During a very aggressive ice storm, John used the generator that was powering his house to power the tools needed to finish this year's robot and ship

John has also given his time and talent to area FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams. In fact, every team John has coached or mentored has gone on to compete at the FIRST Championship. John is determined to reach kids and to make a difference in their lives. As his students put it, "None of us can imagine that anyone else could possibly do more for a team or live a life that embodies the message of FIRST so completely."



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2009 FIRST Scholarship Winne **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** 

In 2009, all FIRST Robotics Competition team members were eligible for over 630 scholarship opportunities, valued at more than \$9.8 million. FIRST Tech Challenge students were eligible for over \$7.3 million of these scholarship funds.

provided by colleges and universities for enrollment at their campuses. The remainder are provided by corporations and professional associations and are awarded for use at any school. Listed in this 2009 report (on page 18) are 130 FIRST Scholarship Providers, 26 of whom are new this year.

Some FIRST scholarships are awarded for special majors such as engineering, math, science, computer science, or technology. Others can be used for any course of study. The values of scholarships vary from full tuition to under \$1,000. Most are renewable annually if the student maintains an acceptable academic average.

FIRST is all about educational opportunities. The majority of FIRST scholarships are

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At every FIRST Championship, Dean Kamen presents the Founder's Award to a company, individual, or entity that does something extraordinary to help FIRST grow its programs and further its mission.

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With the goal of creating a school-to-career pipeline through which young people are inspired to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), National Instruments (NI) shares FIRST's philosophy that today's culture can be positively transformed by inspiring young people, their schools, and their communities to appreciate the need for STEM education in 21st-century education.

NI has generously supported FIRST since 1998, contributing millions through annual in-kind donations, resources, technology, training, and employee volunteerism.

NI joined with The LEGO Group in 1998 to collaborate on the programming software for the original LEGO MINDSTORMS product. In 2006, the FIRST LEGO League adopted NI's MINDSTORMS NXT software. In 2009, FRC teams used the NI CompactRIO controller powered by NI's LabVIEW graphical system design software. Through this collaboration, an estimated 200,000 FIRST participants gain hands-on robotics software experience with technology widely used by professional engineers.

"We must inspire today's students to be tomorrows innovators," says Ray Almgren, Vice President of Academic Relations at NI. "NI chooses to invest in FIRST because we know the programs offer dynamic, hands-on experience with a proven ability to spark student interest in engineering and science."

Under the leadership of Dr. James Truchard. President, CEO, and Cofounder. NI (pictured above) has set a wonderful example of what companies dedicated to furthering U.S. education can do. A tireless member of the FIRST Executive Advisory Board, NI supports FIRST with the time and efforts of their staff resources throughout the year, and serves as a role model for all of corporate America, committed to inspiring creativity and innovation in our schools and helping to shape the future of education.

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e re un so you can be

"I had no opportunities in the past. I didn't have an interest in building robots and engineering and all that stuff. Now it's opened up a whole new world for me."

> Alicia Coates SIATech High School student and FRC "Team 1834" member

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Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company Loco Trendz Logan County Commission London Tigers Warren Loomis Los Altos Rotary Los Angeles County ROP Los Angeles Trade Tech Los Angeles Trade Tech College Lower Merion School Distric Dr. Richard & Ann Lowery Lowe's Lowe's Home Improvement Lowe's Precision Machining Loval Order of the Moose-Ithaca. NY Lodge 666 LR Cannon Enterprises LSI Logic LSI, Inc. LSU Robotics Research Laboratory Dr. Hong Bin Lu & Hui Jiang Luck Stone Corporation Tom Ludorf Lufkin Industries Luminary Micro Luminex Lutron Electronics, Inc. LXE M&K Metal Co. MAC. S.A. Machine Medic Mack Tool Engineering Mack Trucks, Inc. Mackay Manufacturing MAES Magellan Architects Magic Wand Car Wash Magma Engineering Co. Magna Automotive Seating MAIN Manufacturing Maine State Credit Union Manassas Next Manhattan College Manhattan College School Of Engineering Mantz Automation Marathon Mariani's Inn & Restaurant

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Lockheed Martin Corporation

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Lockheed Martin KAPL

Lockheed Martin Coherent Technologies Inc.

The Lock Box

"We need more kids like you... The fact that you're here means you worked through your problems, you kept after it, you tried new approaches, and you shared ideas. Most important, you did not give up." Former President George H. W. Bush

Mar-Lee Companies McMahon Foundation McNeil Consumer and Specialty Marquette University Pharmaceuticals Marquette University College of Engineering McQ Inc. Martha Holden Jennings Foundation MDA Robotics Martin's Machine Shop MDM Architects Marty's Bag Works Mead Johnson Nutritionals Marvel Manufacturing Company Meadows Manufacturing Marvin Windows Mechanical Inc. Mass Bay Engineering Mecklenberg Electric Co-operative Mass Precision Medallion Master Graphic Printing Company Medical Device Solutions Matson Medtronic Inc. Matsuo Takabuki Meggitt Training Systems US Maui Economic and Development Board (MFDR) MEI Maui Electric Co., Ltd. Meir Shamir May Technology and Manufacturing Meland Lumber Mayo Clinic Melfred Borzall Caroline Mayo Mellon Memorial Robotics Booster Club Maytag Aircraft Corporation MB & R Engineering Inc. Mendon Foundation MBDA Missile Systems Mentor Graphics McCarter Welding Mentor Search McCarthy Tetrault McCasland Foundation McCormick Family Foundation Merck John McDermott Family Weldon McDonald Mercury Marine McElroy Manufacturing The McGraw-Hill Companies Meridian Services McGuckin Hardware Store Merovan Office Center McHale Creative McInerny Foundation

McKesson Corp.

MCL Machine - Tools



Mercedes Benz Research and Development North America Merchants' Choice Card Services of Texas Mercury Computer Systems Inc. Meriden Board Of Education Metal Casting Technology The Metal Store

Metro Sports Association Mexican American Engineers and Scientists Fred Meyer MGS Machine Miami University MIC Construction Michael & Margaret Salvador Michigan Advanced Robotics Competition Michigan State University Students Michigan Tech Michigan Technological University Mickey Clagg Micro Analysis MicroAssembly Tech Microchip Microchip Technology, Inc Micron Technology Foundation, Inc. Micron Technology, Inc. Micron Technology Virginia Microsoft Corporation Microsoft Israel R&D Midland Kiwanis Mid-Michigan Robotics Alliance Midrex Mid-States Aluminum Foundation Midway Machine Technologies Midwest Fluid Power Midwest Research Institute Mike Dininny Mike Hickey Mike's Home Repair Mililani High School Science Learning Center Milken Family Foundation Miller Bearings and Motion Systems Miller Environmental Miller Place PTO Milwaukee Area Technical College Milwaukee Rotary Milwaukee School of Engineering Milwaukee SPE Min Plastics mindsensors.com Mine LIFELINE LLC Mingo Career and Technical Center Minnesota West Community & Technical College Minnesota Wire And Cable Minster Machine Miramar College Mishawak Sheet Metal Mishimoto Mississippi Power Company MIT

Metal Supermarkets

Metal Tech

Metalaser

metapurple Ltd.

Mitchell Academy of Science and Technology MITEQ. Mitutoyo Corp. Mobile Air Transport Modern Industries Modern Machining Co. Modern Metalcraft Modiin Municipality Mohave Community College Monarch Instrument Monroe Aluminum Monsanto Monster Cable Montclair Society of Engineers Moog Aircraft Hershel Mooney Moraine Park Technical College Morehouse Engineering Morgan State University Morris Machine Morris South The Morse Group George & Julie Mosher Motorola Foundation Motorola, Inc. Motus Mount Dora Lions Club The Mountain Apple Company MP Robotics Boosters MPC MSC Industrial Supply Co. MSI. General MS0E Mt. Dora Community Trust MTA-NYC Transit Authority MTC MTS Corp. Mueller Constructio Mueller Industries Mullins Repair Multiple Reality Paintball Multi-Talent Resource Center Municipio de Queretaro M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

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NASA Ames Research Center NASA Dryden Flight Research NASA Glenn Research Center NASA Glenn Research Center External NASA Goddard Space Flight Center NASA Johnson Space Center NASA Kennedy Space Center NASA Langley Research Center NASA Launch Services Program NASA Robotics Education FIRST NASA Stennis Space Center National- A Unit of Kimball International

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**New Market Corporation** 

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"What better could you do than spend nights and weekends building robots with kids?"

Bob Schafer Engineered Automation Systems, Inc., FRC "Robo-Dawgs" mentor

North Carolina A&T State University North County Yamaha North Dakota Space Grant Consortium North Eastern Michigan Industrial Association North Fork Sanitation North Shore Hanapa'a Club North Shore News North State Storage Northeast Pennsylvania Tech Prep Consortium Northeast Utilities Northeastern State University Northeastern University Northern Arizona University Northern Virginia Community College: Manassas Campus Northland Area FCU Northland Foundation NORTHROCK INDUSTRIES.INC Northrop Grumman Corporation Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Northrop Grumman Space Technology Northrop Grumman Technical Services Northrop Grumman, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract Northwest Vista College Norwich Glass Norwich Pharmaceuticals Norwich University David Crawford School of Engineering Notre Dame NOVA

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On The Mark, Inc. One Point Inc. OneLegacy Ontario Centres of Excellence Ontario Power Generation Optimist Club Optimist Club of Oakville Optimist Club of Sacramento Optimist Club of West Branch **Orbital Sciences** Orbital Technologies Oregon Hawks Booster Club Oregon Rotary Club Oregon State University Orion Computing Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc. Osborne Trucking Inc. OSHEAN Oshkosh Corp.

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Science Academy

Platt



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Qimonda Richmond

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Society of Women Engineers,

Solano Community Foundation

Solano County Office of Education

Solano County Office of Education ROP

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Sacramento Valley Section

Steele Rubber Products Stellar Solutions Stennis Space Center STEPS Sterling Tool, Inc. Steurnol & McLaren Funeral Home Steve's Wholesale Tools The Stewart Family Stewart Systems Stich in Time Stillwater Designs (Kicker) Stock Drive Products-Sterling Instrument Stoody Industrial and Welding Supplies Inc. Storage-R-Us Streets, Inc. Mechanical Contractors StreetSmart Digital Solutions, LLC Structures Inc. Stryker Orthopedics Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association Subaru Keith M. Sullivan Foundation Sultans of Türkive & The Fikret Yuksel Foundation Sun Chemical Corporation Sun Hydraulics Corporation Sunrise of East Meadow Sunrise Rotary Sunsource Hydraulic Service and Repair Superior Industries Supervisor Covington Surf n Sea Surface Combat Systems Center SurModics Inc. Sussex Ace Hardware Swiffer SWIFT ATLANTA **Swingen Construction** Symantec Corporation Symphony Service Corporation Synaptics Syngenta Synnex Corporation Tableau Software Taek Force, Inc. TAH Enterprises Talleres Lucas Tallmadge Foundation TAMA Tulsa Area Manufacturers

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State of Oklahoma

Steaming Bean LLC

Steelcase Foundation

Steel Fab. Inc.

Steelcase

State Electric

understand all the work they have put into iPods and cell phones. We definitely feel that it's technology. Kids who have the capability to invent and play with the materials and tinker around ...

FTC "Einstein's Daughters" team member

Telefónica CTC Chile Teleplus Consulting, Inc. Telford Technologies Temple Inland -Bogalusa Tenaris Algoma Tubes Teradata Corporation Terminal Supply Terra Tech Engineering Terradata Corporation Terry's Machine Terumo Cardiovascular Systems Tesoro Refining Companies TESSCO Technologies Texas Direct Auto The Texas High School Project Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas Texas Institute for Educational Robotics Texas Instruments Incorporated Texas Tech University **Textron Corporation** Textron Marine & Land Textron Systems TGM Robotic Mentors Thales Group That Computer Place Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College Theorem, Inc. ThermoGenesis Thermopylae Sciences & Technology THHA THHS PTA

Thomas Nelson Community College

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Thor Labs

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TRW

Tube Methods

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Université de Sherbrooke University of Bridgeport The University of California at San Diego University of California, Los Angeles-MESA University of Denver University of Detroit Mercy University of Hartford University of Hawaii College of Engineering University of Hawaii Physics Department-Melvin Matsunaga University of Hawaii-KCC University of Hawaii-Manoa, College of Engineering University of Hawaii Maui Community College University of Illinois Kane County Extension University of Maine

University of Michigan University of Michigan College of Engineering University of Minnesota University of Minnesota Foundation University of Minnesota, Duluth University of Minnesota-Twin Cities University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of New Hampshire University of North Dakota University of Oklahoma University of Ottawa University of Pennsylvania Engineering School University of Rhode Island University of South Carolina University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at Brownsville in partnership with Texas Southmost College University of Texas at Tyler University of Toronto University of Toronto -Engineering Faculty University of Tulsa University of Utah University of Virginia University of West Florida University of Wisconsin-Madison **Unlimited Construction** Upper Freehold Regional School District Board of Education URS Electronics, Inc.

Urschel Laboratories Incorporated

(a United Technologies Company)

**USC** College of Engineering

**UT Electronic Controls** 

James R. Utaski **=** 

**UTC Fire and Security** 

**US Case** 

USC-MESA

USC



(a United Technologies Company)

**UW Madison Society of Women Engineers** 

UW-Platteville

Valero

Valley Craft

Valve Software

Vane Brothers

VDS

Vanguard Industry

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VEI Systems, LLC

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Verizon Foundation

Vertec Tool, Inc.

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Incentive Program

Vermont Technical College

Velocitv11

Vergason

**Vectrix Corporation** 

UWUA Local 223

Valero Refining Companies

Valley Precision Products

Van Boerum & Frank Engineering

Vantage Point Asset Solutions

Vecna Technologies, Inc.

"It was a lot of fun. We learned about building robots and had to figure out ways to make it work. If we tried something and it didn't work, we had to find other things to work with."

> Dalton Hedgepeth FLL "Team Chaos" member

Viatalk Vic Canever Chevrolet Vicarious Visions VICO Manufacturing Steve & Kay Victor Videx Corporation Viking Plastics Inc. Villa's Tacos and Seafood Restaurant Viper Northwest Virginia Blower Co. Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Groundwater Virginia National Guard Virginia Tech School of Education Virginia Tobacco Commission Vista West Engineering Vitron Manufacturing Vivid-Hosting.net VMD Systems Integrators VoiceMetrix Volvo Motor Graders Vulcan Spring W & K Automotive W.M. Keck Observatory WA OSPI Wade Trim & Associates WAFER POWER Technology Wagstaff Waialua Federal Credit Union Waialua High School Foundation Waialua Lions Club Waialua Plumbing Wainewright Consulting Ltd Jim and Jane Walke

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Leslie Zola Science Scholarship

Wiesbaden Boosters Club

Wiesbaden Spouses Club

Wilco Machine and Fab

Wilkinson Woodworking

The Williams Companies Foundation, Inc.

Williams and Fudge

Williams Corporation

Williams Engineering

Williams Energy

Wildbit

FIRST is supported by a strong network of corporations, foundations. educational and professional institutions, and individuals. This support, including financial contributions. in-kind donations. employee volunteerism and mentoring. provides vital resources for FIRST organizational growth, and is a testimony to the value found in FIRST's programs. FIRST greatly

appreciates

its sponsors,

the support of

suppliers, and

contributors!

**UTC Power** 

### Financials

Throughout fiscal year 2008-2009, FIRST provided consistently high quality experiences to its rapidly growing number of teams across all programs. Donations reached record levels as many individuals, businesses, and foundations continued or increased their support, and new sponsors joined FIRST – a sign of how essential its science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs are to the future.

90% of funds spent this year were for team services and program growth; general and administrative expenses comprised 8% and fundraising costs were only 2%, reflecting a policy of applying the maximum amount of funds possible to directly benefit teams. FIRST has consistently maximized resources available to individual teams by carefully balancing public need with funding from many sources

There were no audit findings or questioned costs in fiscal 2008-2009 and FIRST received an unqualified opinion from its auditors, Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, The Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-133 audit of FIRST's federal grant awards had no findings or questioned costs and FIRST continues to be qualified as a "low-risk" auditee.

Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 22,268,606	\$18,270,302
Total net assets, end of year	19,318,283	14,834,30 <sup>-</sup>
Temporarily restricted	8,228,148	4,570,399
Net assets: Unrestricted	11,090,135	10,263,90
Total liabilities	2,950,323	3,436,00
Liabilities and net assets:		
Total assets, end of year	22,268,606	18,270,30
Net property, plant, and equipment	4,134,969	4,139,42
Pledges, receivables, and other assets	7,785,144	2,942,89
Short-term investments	5,400,000	7,799,71
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,948,493	\$ 3,388,27
Assets:		
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ 826,233	\$ 1,584,16
Non-operating: Refundable advances – amortization	319,968	319,96
Operating surplus	506,265	1,264,19
Total operating expenses	34,180,722	30,673,56
Operation of building Depreciation	160,420 348,288	149,37 293,14
Management and general	3,382,414	3,273,37
FIRST Place ("FP")	145,855	85,74
FIRST Tech Challenge ("FTC")	1.169.372	1,004,25
FIRST Robotics Competition ("FRC") FIRST LEGO League ("FLL")	25,259,844 3,714,529	22,841,96 3,025,70
Operating expenses:	05 050 044	00.044.00
Total operating revenues and other support	34,686,987	31,937,75
Net assets released from restrictions	2,231,912	1,321,00
Other income	428,360	839,53
Rental income, net	175.629	172.40
Program registration fees Contributions and grants	\$ 15,535,666 16.315.420	\$ 14,461,81 15.143.00
Operating revenues and other support:	ф 15 525 CCC	Ф 14 4C1 O1
	JOINE 30, 2003	JUNE 30, 200
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITES	JUNE 30, 2009	(As Restated) JUNE 30, 200

The financial information presented here is condensed and does not include the value of all donated services and materials. Audited financial statements (AFS) are available on the website at WWW.USFIRST.ORG under "ABOUT US/Annual Report & Financials." Certain amounts reported for 2008 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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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

Mission...

...to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, 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...

...FIRST participants are 50% more likely to attend college, twice as likely to go on to major in science or engineering, and three times as likely to major specifically in engineering.

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