



"... to create a world where science and technology are **celebrated** ... where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders ..."

DEAN KAMEN | FOUNDER, FIRST®

Over two decades ago, pioneering inventor Dean Kamen dreamed about an international culture where scientists and engineers were celebrated and revered on the same level as celebrities and athletes. Dean understood early on that our global future depends on our collective ability to ignite a passion in young people of all types for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and opening doors for kids so they might seek education and careers in these fields. To help turn the dream into reality, Dean and other visionaries established *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity whose mission is to help develop tomorrow's science and technology leaders by engaging our youth in fun, exciting, robotics and research programs that build STEM skills through Mentor-based learning, inspire innovation, and foster team-building, self-confidence, and leadership.

**Today, FIRST is a leader** in changing our culture for the better. A growing flock of hundreds of thousands of young people worldwide (supported by tens of thousands of adult Volunteers and thousands of Sponsors) are inspired by their participation in the progression of four *FIRST* programs that continue to celebrate learning, self-discovery, personal growth, and life-changing experiences. Even celebrated personalities from entertainment, professional sports, and government are joining the *FIRST* movement to help it continue to grow and achieve its ultimate goal.

## Help the celebration continue.

Learn the full FIRST story and its phenomenal growth path at <u>USFIRST.ORG</u>



# Celebratino GROWTH & IMPACT

# 1989

Year **FIRST** is founded to excite young people about science and technology



# Gracious Professionalism®

"Respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you learn" (a **FIRST** core value)



25,000+

Robots built this year alone

314,000+

Worldwide youth participants (ages 6 to 18)

\$16 million +

Scholarship funds available

# 150 times

more people talking about FIRST on Facebook daily

# 1 million +

Experiences delivered by FLL worldwide

28

# of teams competing in inaugural **FIRST** season



will.i.am

#1 FIRST fan and supporter among celebrities

29,102

# of teams competing in 2013 **FIRST** season

# <u>Coopertition</u>®

"Competing teams help and cooperate with each other" (another **FIRST** core value)



# Sport for the Mind<sup>™</sup>

Four competitions/expos under one roof in St. Louis, Mo.



126,000 +

Amazing adult Volunteers



1,480+

**FIRST** events held around the globe

13%

**FIRST** team growth over last year

200+

Fortune 500 companies supporting **FIRST** 

8,800,000+

Hours donated and still counting!

50 U.S. states / 70+ Countries

A growing global phenomenon

4

# Celebratino PROGRESS



Our idea of creating a global culture where science and technology are celebrated — and the everyday heroes who are pioneers in these fields are recognized alongside athletes and rock stars — is nearly a quarter-century old. We envisioned FIRST to be a force for change that would expose young people to the fun and excitement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the hope that they would become the next generation of technology leaders and innovators.

Today, we celebrate how far we have come toward reaching our goal. Over a million kids around the world have been inspired by our programs, which continue to grow at an astounding pace. Each inspiring story that we hear serves as a testament to the life-changing impact *FIRST* has on so many lives — not just on the kids, but on the thousands of Mentors, Volunteers, and Sponsors who give so selflessly to help build our collective dream. We celebrate and humbly thank all of them, along with the teachers, parents, friends, and fans who contribute their time and vision to make *FIRST* run and help it grow. We are indebted to you all.

We also celebrate the growing list of government leaders, educators, entertainment moguls, and corporations large and small that have embraced our idea and enthusiastically provided people, resources, and influence.

As we look back at how far we have come, we cannot forget how much work remains to be done. A significant percentage of teachers and students have yet to discover *FIRST*, or have not had the opportunity to get involved. If we are to reach out to every child who dares to dream big, then we must work harder than ever before.

We urge you to do whatever you can — help raise funds, sponsor a team, become a Mentor, commit your company's people and resources, volunteer locally, or help spread the word about *FIRST*. No effort is too small as we work together to inspire the future innovators who will change the world.



## FIRST PROGRAMS

VIDEO

A **PROGRESSION** OF FOUR PROGRAMS

For ages 6 to 18; gets young people involved early, developing skills and building confidence, keeping them engaged through high school.



Junior FIRST® LEGO® League

## Grades K-3

Teams explore today's scientific challenges, then present their research using a model with motorized parts made out of LEGO® elements, and a Show Me poster





FLL. >

FIRST® LEGO® League

## Grades 4-8

Guided by FLL Core Values, teams build LEGO®-based autonomous robots and develop research projects based on a real-world Challenge that changes annually





Grades 7-12

FIRST® Tech Challenge

Students learn to think like engineers and produce an engineering notebook to document their progress.

Teams develop strategies, build robots from a reusable kit of parts, and compete head to head.



# FRC.

FIRST®Robotics Competition

Grades 9-12

Mentored by professional engineers, teams compete with up-to-150-pound robots of their own design in this varsity Sport for the Mind™, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.



# Colohratino TEAMWORK



"Awesome, Amazing, Inspiring"

As "rookies" with less than a year at FIRST under our belts, my family and I are indeed grateful for the opportunity to join and help lead such an "awesome, amazing, and inspiring" organization. (Those are actually your words, and I couldn't agree more.) In my short time here, I have already experienced much of what FIRST has to offer, and those words don't even begin to describe this extraordinary community.

As an engineer by training, I'm driven by facts and figures. That's why I think we should celebrate! Nearly half a million people, kids and adults, participated this past year. Adult Volunteers gave nearly nine million hours of their precious time. FIRST fielded teams in more than 70 countries. Over 29,000 teams built robots and/or researched solutions to help seniors live better lives. In fact, the number of FIRST teams grew by a robust 13 percent. And more than \$16 million in college scholarships were available to start FIRST Alumni on the path to exciting careers in the vital fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

> Beyond the numbers, I've also seen amazing accomplishments, alliances, breakthroughs, and ideas from every corner of FIRST be recognized and celebrated. FIRST® LEGO® League teams have patented real safety products. A student member of both a FIRST® Tech Challenge and a FIRST® Robotics

Competition team designed an inexpensive prosthetic leg that can benefit millions around the world. The state of lowa became the first in the nation to incorporate our programs into a statewide, state-funded STEM initiative in its public schools. President Obama honored young FIRST innovators at the White House. Our logo even found its way onto a NASCAR racecar! Our footprint seems to be everywhere, and we've become so "cool" that the companies and personalities we've so often chased for endorsement are now beginning to come to us. Who wouldn't be excited to be associated with such a dynamic, impactful organization?

As we now celebrate our accomplishments of 2013, the much-anticipated 2014 FIRST season is already underway. New challenges await. New friendships are being made. New alliances are being formed, new technologies are being tested, and new devotees are being welcomed to our vibrant community. While all of this is exciting, we must remember what it takes to make the FIRST engine run. We need constant refueling of Volunteers, Mentors, Sponsors, ambassadors, gift-givers, and visionaries. We need people and businesses of every type who want to help us create a better future by motivating and inspiring youth around the globe to discover the joys and rewards of STEM education and its many career paths.

Do you know someone who would like to join us?

Thank you for all you do, and for making my FIRST year so memorable. I hope to see you at many more FIRST celebrations in the future.

# Celebratino outcomes

## Researched\* and documented facts about the impact of FIRST on today's youth:



FIRST Alumni are significantly more likely to:

- Attend college
- Major and pursue careers in science or engineering
- ✓ Volunteer in their communities
- Mentor other FIRST students
- ✓ Become outstanding citizens

\*Source: Brandeis University "More Than Robots" Evaluation



In college, FIRST Alumni are many times more likely to:

- ✓ Secure internships
- ✓ Pursue careers in engineering
- Minority FIRST participants are more than twice as likely and female participants are four times as likely to study science and engineering

### **INSPIRED TO LEARN MORE?**

HTTP://WWW.USFIRST.ORG/ABOUTUS/IMPACT



## White House Honors President Obama recognizes

FIRST students for their innovative ideas, teamwork, and patent-pending inventions at the White House Science Fair

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial Scholarship Fund benefits undergraduates pursuing biomedical engineering and/ or pre-medical degrees; honors long-time FIRST Volunteer and distinguished pediatric oncologist Bart Kamen

## 2013 Season Highlights



Successful technology executive Don Bossi name President, and Sheri S. McCoy and Robert M. Tuttle named Co-Chairs of FIRST



SPEED THRILLS

FIRST and 3M team up with NASCAR driver Grea Biffle, whose car features the FIRST logo at the Pure Michigan 400 Sprint Cup

#### Innovation Celebration

by the Abbott Fund: Parker Owen, FRC Team 3469 and FTC Team 4260, inexpensive prosthetic made from recycled bicycle; FLL Global Innovation Award: FLL Team "NeXT GEN," device to help seniors grasp

FIRST Future Innovator Award sponsored

small objects; ABC's Shark Tank: FIRST Alumni pitch Coffee Joulies and FLL team "Inventioneers" pitch SMARTwheel



FIRST IN THE NATION

FIRST included in groundbreaking, \$4.7 million lowa legislative initiative promoting STEM; viewed as model for the nation; showcases FTC and FLL

-

FIRST

DON BOSSI

PRESIDENT

# Celebrating DIFFERENCES

YAARA ABU FAWDAH | FRC ALUMNA





Getting Arabs and Jews to work peacefully together is never a small feat. That's exactly what FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®)

Mentor Mohamed Abu Fawdah, an Arab Israeli, did by creating the world's first Muslim Arab FRC team based in Israel. His team participates in FRC alongside over forty Jewish Israeli teams. It turned out that all of their differences never showed up on the team members' radar.

Fawdah had to overcome not only deep religious barriers, but cultural ones as well. With very strict social guidelines, getting Arab girls to join his team of predominately Jewish boys took some parental persuasion. Working late into the night on robots was also a problem for the girls, but Fawdah's gentle leadership overcame that obstacle, too. Now boys and girls on the team share responsibilities and accolades equally, and have become great friends as well.

For Fawdah and his team, combining technology, robots, and kids of all kinds under the FIRST banner can build trust between communities and opportunities for all.

"FIRST proves that you can have friends that don't look or talk like you... it's really empowering."

# Celebrating TURNING PRO

VIDEO

# "Did FIRST help you get an internship or job?"

## Charlie Franklin

**FIRST** gave me the confidence to speak in front of audiences, which helped me land a job helping people with learning disabilities ... best job in the world!

## Victoria Burg

YES! Right out of high school I had a job because of my **FIRST** experience.

## Aaron Hall

So far my **FIRST** experience has helped me get four job offers.

## *Matthew Mook-Sang*

Internships and eventually entrepreneurship!
This is why I continue as a **FIRST** Mentor and Sponsor!

# Jennifer Nold

My daughter was hired at an engineering company doing CAD when she was 16 because of her **FIRST** experience.

## Tessa Corrine

Yes! My **FIRST** experience directly led to me getting a marketing job...

# Christopher Thompson

My experience helped me secure an internship with NASA...

DR. WOODIE FLOWERS
FIRST EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN



"Societies get the best of what they celebrate."



## Expos

✓ More than 100 regional Expos✓ Jr.FLL World Festival Expo in St. Louis

## Noteworthy

Largest-ever Jr.FLL World Festival Expo featured 40 teams (from North America, Spain, and China); Jr.FLL Online Showcase allows teams from around the world to post profiles and interact with each other

# Celebrating OUTREACH



## The Challenge

Teams explored the obstacles some people face as they get older, then built models made out of LEGO® elements, and created *Show Me* posters depicting their journey of discovery

## FOUNDED

the first Jr.FLL team and League in Harlem (NYC), with a long wait-list of hopeful members

## Introduced

LEGO construction and STEM fundamentals to kids from varied backgrounds, from wealthy private school children to families from impoverished homes,

some of whom had never played with LEGO elements before or understood the extent or capabilities

## ATTRACTED

world-class STEM professionals (interactive designers, software engineers, renowned educators, and astrophysicists) as team Coaches and educational supporters, as well as LEGO kit donors

"We are very excited about offering services that kids can afford, regardless of their background or income."

APRIL PATRICK | HARLEM JR.FLL

READ APRIL'S FULL PROFILE
at USFIRST.ORG/ABOUTUS/APRIL-PATRICK



## Competitions

- ✓ 889 Qualifying Events
- ✓ 129 Championship Tournaments
  - ✓ 3 Open Championships
- ✓ FLL World Festival in St. Louis

## Noteworthy

FLL Innovation Ambassadors celebrated Coopertition® between countries at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C.; innovation celebration broadcast between the <a href="Department of State">Department of State</a> and U.S. embassies around the world, which hosted local FLL teams

# Celebrating inclusion



## The Challenge

Teams researched and shared their innovative solutions for improving the quality of life for seniors, then used a team-designed autonomous robot, programmed with a LEGO® MINDSTORMS® kit, to complete "missions" that help seniors maintain their lifestyle

### ESTABLISHED

one of the few FLL teams in the world composed entirely of blind or visually impaired members

### INVENTED

an "iFind" device that helps the visually-impaired find and identify items on store shelves

## DEMONSTRATED

that the visually impaired can compete on the same level as sighted people by becoming co-recipients of a regional FLL Qualifier Champion's award

FLL TEAM "DOT BOTS" MENTORS KAY PRUETT | GERRY COCCO

> All of our work is truly a team effort and everyone is really supportive."

JONATHAN ALCARAZ,
TEAM MEMBER

READ THE "DOT BOTS" FULL PROFILE

at USFIRST.ORG/ABOUTUS/DOT-BOTS



# Competitions

- ✓ 63 Championship Tournaments
- √ 136 Qualifying Tournaments
  - ✓ 80 League Events
- ✓ FTC World Championship in St. Louis

## Noteworthy

New League format introduced in four regions across the U.S.; based on traditional after-school sports models, format makes FTC accessible to more schools and students than ever before

# Celebrating GENDER EQUALITY



# The Challenge

VIDEO

Teams designed, programmed, and operated robots to place rings onto pegs; robots needed to detect special "weighted" rings, then lift their Alliance partner's robot up to 24 inches off the floor

## ESTABLISHED

an all-girls FTC team, "Ada Graces," at Northside College Prep in Chicago

## CREATED

Chicago Girls in Computing (CGC),
encouraging area high-school girls
to become more involved with technology
through girls-only classes and lectures

"Girls' input is really important, and we should be heard."

## MENTORED

a rookie, all-girls *FIRST*® LEGO® League team at a local elementary school

## READ ABRIL'S FULL PROFILE

AT USFIRST.ORG/ABOUTUS/ABRIL-VELA





## Competitions

- √ 77 Regional and District Events
- ✓ FRC Championship in St. Louis

## Noteworthy

In its fifth year, the FRC district event competition structure grew to 17 District Competitions and 2 Region Championships, setting the stage for a 2014 rollout to two new regions

# Celebrating LIFE SKILLS





# The Challenge

Three-team Alliances joined forces to guide team-designed robots in launching flying discs into goals and, in the grand finale of exciting two-minute-and-15-second matches, climbing pyramids

## DISCOVERED

hidden artistic and public speaking skills by joining her FRC team's PR group

## CREATED

"Sting" bee logo for her FRC team, the "Robobees," featured in her animated Chairman's Award submission and outreach children's book

## Pursuing

a degree in illustration and animation at Savannah College of Art and Design (Ga.), thanks to *FIRST* 

## AMANDA LUCAS

"I doubted that I could do anything as an artist on a robotics team...
I learned that this is a misconception."

READ AMANDA'S FULL PROFILE
at USFIRST.ORG/ABOUTUS/AMANDA-LUCAS

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Help us reach more kids. **Become a FIRST Sponsor** today!

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Advancing science for life™



























...FIRST extends its sincere appreciation to the tens of thousands of Volunteers who generously devote their time and expertise FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST LEGO League, and Junior FIRST LEGO League teams and events.

FIRST could not achieve the impact it does without this tremendous support. FIRST thanks its Supporters and has made every effort to ensure complete and accurate listings. If we've made an error, please accept our sincere apology, and let us know at donations@usfirst.org.

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In 2013, all FIRST Robotics Competition 850 scholarship opportunities, valued at over \$16 million. FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) participants were eligible for \$10 million of these funds.

The majority of FIRST scholarships are provided by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses, with the remainder provided by corporations and professional associations for use at any school. On pages 24-25 are listed the 2013 FIRST Scholarship Providers.

Some FIRST scholarships are awarded math, science, computer science, or technology. Others can be used for any the required academic average.

Darcie Fregoe in memory of Bart Kamen Edward Frey in honor of Nicolai & Ezmeralda Khalil Martin & Deborah Friedman Maria Gagnon Victor & Patricia Ganzi Peter Geary Mervl H. Gersh Jodi Gibson Ron Gielgun Joel Gilbert Stephen Gilbert Mark Giordono Bruce Gitlin in honor of Michael Dubno Global Impact Scott Godin Jeffrey & Anne Godsey Gary & Vickie Goehri Goldman, Sachs & Company Matching Gift Program & Michael & Judith Goldsmith in memory of Bart Kamen

Linda Frascarella

(FRC) team members were eligible for over

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Since 2006, Rockwell Automation has donated nearly also encourages employees to volunteer as Mentors, Mentors. Each year, Rockwell Automation showcases During the 2012-2013 FIRST season, the company sponsored 123 teams in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.;

109 employees volunteered as team Mentors; and 250 employees around the globe volunteered at *FIRST* competitions and events.

"I am very proud of all our employees who are inspiring young minds through organizations like FIRST and their involvement in STEM initiatives," said Chairman and CEO, Keith Nosbusch.

2013 FIRST **FOUNDER'S AWARD** PRESENTED TO

Rockwell **Automation** 

Each year, FIRST Founder Dean Kamen presents the

Founder's Award for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of FIRST.

Presenting the 2013 Founder's Award to Rockwell Automation at the FIRST Championship, Kamen recognized the company for being a dedicated supporter for more than a decade, as a FIRST Strategic Partner. a global Sponsor of FIRST LEGO League, and the sole Sponsor of the FIRST Robotics Competition "Innovation in Control Award."

\$8 million in cash and product donations. The company judges, and referees. In addition, it has hired FIRST Alumni who are now "paying it forward" by serving as program FIRST at the premier commercial event, Automation Fair®.

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## **2013 WOODIE FLOWERS** AWARD WINNER

FARIDODIN "FREDI" LAIVARDI Science Teacher, Carl Hayden High School



His students describe him as a "constant" and a "connector," and say he teaches that there are no limits to what anyone can accomplish. For these attributes and more, FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 842 Mentor Faridodin "Fredi" Lajvardi is the recipient of the 2013 Woodie Flowers Award.

In his 25 years as a science teacher at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Arizona, Lajvardi has helped his students achieve numerous goals, including four regional FIRST Chairman's Awards, three Arizona State FRC titles, and the 2008 Chairman's Award.

The motto of Team 842 — "If you think it, you can make it happen" — is a fitting sentiment for students who come from a school where 90 percent are Hispanic and the majority rely on a federally-assisted free lunch program. In fact, Lajvardi has been able to develop a team culture that encourages his students to consider a college prep path. To many students whose parents never graduated high school, a college education is often out of reach. However, in just the past five years, 30 team members have gone on to university-level engineering programs.

Thanks to Lajvardi and his efforts with the Falcon Robotics, instead of limitations, these students see opportunities.

Join Fredi and change kids' lives.

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The 3rd annual FLL Global Innovation Award encouraged, celebrated, and supported youth innovation, offering teams an opportunity to further develop and submit ideas stemming from the season's SENIOR SOLUTIONS projects.

First Place winners of the 2013 FLL Global Innovation Award: FLL TEAM "NEXT GEN" OF OAKLAND, MD.

Invention:

**Assistive device** that helps seniors pick up pills or other small objects that are difficult to retrieve with a conventional claw or magnetic-type device

The FIRST Future Innovator Award sponsored by the Abbott Fund honors creativity in effectively solving a real-world, complex problem through the invention of a unique solution beyond the requirements of the FIRST competition season and events.

Winner of the 2nd annual 2013 FIRST Future Innovator Award:

PARKER OWEN, FROM FRC TEAM 3469 AND FTC TEAM 4260, BOTH NAMED "Spanish Inquisition," of Mobile, Ala.

Invention:

**Cycle-Leg,** an inexpensive prosthetic made from a single recycled bicycle

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In keeping with long-time practices, FIRST continued to apply the maximum percentage of funds possible to directly benefit FIRST teams.



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certifying our commitment to accountability, transparency, and responsible fiscal management. This rating places FIRST in the top 1% of all charities evaluated by Charity Navigator.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITES	JUNE 30, 2013	JUNE 30, 2012
Revenues and other support: Program registration fees Contributions and grants Other income, net of expenses of \$86,580 in 2013 and \$244,255 in 2012 Special project, net of expenses of \$551,381 in 2013 and \$731,625 in 2012 Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 19,060,850 18,238,363 1,062,714 45,145 12,501,544	\$ 16,746,773 19,529,408 1,232,861 42,001 13,099,941
Total revenues and other support	50,908,616	50,650,984
Expenses: FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and	33,406,617	34,754,397
Junior FIRST LEGO League (Jr.FLL) FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)	5,853,938 2,178,267	4,786,963 1,792,989
FIRST Place (FP)	2,176,267 63,451	1,792,969
Net cost of building space occupied by unrelated not-for-profit organizations	227,306	189,962
General, administrative and supporting services, and fundraising	6,399,969	6,339,921
Operation of building	377,549	334,865
Depreciation	471,183	374,820
Total expenses	48,978,280	48,674,864
Operating surplus	1,930,336	1,976,120
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents*	13,398,774	13,194,985
Short-term investments*	10,500,000	8,475,693
Pledges, receivables, and other assets	11,858,347	7,747,006
Net property, plant, and equipment	4,148,808	3,663,438
Total assets, end of year	39,905,929	33,081,122
Liabilities and net assets: Total liabilities	2 014 062	4 200 424
Net assets:	3,914,962	4,389,434
Unrestricted	18,454,129	16,523,793
Temporarily restricted	17,536,838	12,167,895
Total net assets, end of year	39,905,929	33,081,122
Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 39,905,929	\$ 33,081,122

For each of the two fiscal years summarized above, FIRST received an unqualified opinion from its independent auditors, 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, 2013, 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. View Audited Financial Statements (AFS). Certain amounts reported for 2012 have been restated. For details, please refer to the accompanying notes which are an integral part of the AFS.

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Listing current as of March, 2014

Championship photography by Adriana M. Groisman and Argenis Apolinario. First in the Nation photo by S. Schons. White House photo, page 9. Other images courtesy of FIRST teams, Volunteers, and Sponsors.



"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

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.

FIRST participants are significantly 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.



▲ 200 Bedford Street ● Manchester, NH 03101 ■ 800.871.8326

FIRST INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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FIRST Newsletter

