

2014

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS



“FIRST® was STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) before there was STEM.”

WALT HAVENSTEIN, FIRST VICE CHAIR

Twenty-five years have passed since visionary inventor Dean Kamen launched his most inspired creation to date — *FIRST®* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity whose mission is to help develop our young people into tomorrow’s science and technology leaders and innovators. Through a progression of fun, engaging, STEM-building robotics and research programs, *FIRST* kids, ages 6 to 18, learn about team building and mutual respect, gain self-confidence, and develop important leadership and life skills.

Dean’s vision, still unchanged after a quarter century, is to create a culture where scientists, engineers, and technologists are celebrated and revered on the same level as athletes and celebrities. *FIRST* is cleverly designed to open the doors of imagination so that kids will be inspired to seek education and careers in these fields.

What was, in the beginning, expected to be a long, uphill battle for positive cultural change has today become a model for success. *FIRST* is celebrated in the media, respected by government leaders, considered a valuable asset on scholarship applications and employee resumes, and embraced by a growing army of young people worldwide seeking knowledge, self-discovery, personal growth, and life-changing experiences. It’s leading the way in making science and engineering “cool.” Is this success more than we expected? You bet — and the best is yet to come.

➔ *The ball of cultural change is rolling.
Can you help us push?*

Learn more about *FIRST* at www.usfirst.org



25 years EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS & CREATING REAL IMPACT

A decade of data and research shows that exposing kids to fun, exciting *FIRST* programs builds 21st century work skills and greatly increases their motivation to seek education and careers in STEM fields.



STEM EXPOSURE



STEM INTEREST & SKILLS



EDUCATION & STEM CAREERS



LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

* Unless noted, the data represented is the lowest value from the formal evaluations of the programs.

- **84%** work on the robot
- **90%** work on team strategy
- **88%** in FLL work on programming (63% in FTC; 37% in FRC)
- **84%** learn about STEM jobs
- **66%** make presentations to judges
- **97%** have FUN!



LEADS TO



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



LEADS TO



- **86%** more interested in doing well in school
- **84%** motivated to take challenging math or science classes (FRC, FTC)
- **94%** embraced importance of Coopertition® & Gracious Professionalism®
- **80%** more interested in jobs that use STEM



LEADS TO



- **41%** Alumni major in engineering
- **33%** female Alumni major in engineering

Sources:
Brandeis University: Cross-Program Evaluation of FTC and FRC (2011); Evaluation of the 2012-13 FLL Program (2013); and More Than Robots: Evaluation of FRC Participant and Institutional Impacts (2005)
FIRST, 2011 Survey of FRC and FTC Alumni

Inspired to learn more?
www.usfirst.org/aboutus/impact

ULTIMATE IMPACT



89.6% of *FIRST* Alumni are in a STEM field (student or professional)



FOUNDER'S & CO-CHAIRS' LETTER



DEAN KAMEN

Founder

BOB TUTTLE

Co-Chair, Board of Directors

SHERI McCOY

Co-Chair, Board of Directors

This year, we proudly celebrated our first quarter century of inspiring young people to take up the important cause of advancing humankind's achievements in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Over the past 25 years, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of thousands of adult Volunteers, Mentors, and Sponsors, inquisitive kids around the world have been exposed to the wonders, fun, and excitement of taking on a difficult challenge and solving it through teamwork, learning, hard work, and perseverance. Little did we envision at our founding what a monumental impact *FIRST* would have on so many.

At this juncture, we're happy to report that we've far exceeded all of our early expectations. With the help and backing of so many, *FIRST* has grown from 28 U.S.-based teams in the initial competition season to more than 34,000 teams today in over 80 countries, involving more than 360,000 kids, and over 150,000 adult Volunteers. Each year, we continue to expand at an astounding rate, with no end in sight. Evaluation data tells us that almost 90 percent of *FIRST* Alumni are now studying for or working in STEM careers*, and female *FIRST* participants are four times more likely to study STEM subjects due to participation†. That's impact with a capital "I."

With science and technology, and those who advance it, earning a new-found respect and admiration in the minds of kids everywhere, we've come a long way toward our goal of influencing major cultural change. Yet our mission is far from accomplished. The next generations of inspired scientists and engineers that *FIRST* can help produce need your help today. We urge you to volunteer locally, become a Mentor, raise funds, sponsor a team, or commit your company's or organization's time, people, and resources. It takes all of us, working together, to propel *FIRST* into our next quarter century of inspiration. If students dare to dream big, then we are compelled to open doors for them.

There are many who deserve our heartfelt gratitude for helping us achieve our Silver Anniversary. We salute our Founding Sponsors and Strategic Partners, and all of our Sponsors, Mentors, and Volunteers who give freely of their experience, knowledge, time, and resources. Parents and teachers, as well as school and program administrators, also earn our thanks. You inspire us, one and all!

The work has already begun that will lead us to our Golden Anniversary 25 years hence. We recommit ourselves to the goal of achieving cultural change by doing all we can to make *FIRST* programs available to every child who expresses curiosity about how things work and addresses challenges with a simple question: **"Why not?"**

*Source: *FIRST*, 2011 Survey of FRC, FTC Alumni

†Source: Brandeis University "More Than Robots" Evaluation

PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*



DON BOSSI
President

Last year, I talked about being a *FIRST* rookie and shared my admiration for the powerful, innovative, and inspiring contributions and accomplishments of all *FIRST* participants, young and old. My expectations were high. In one short year, the many things I witnessed and experienced first-hand have turned me into a seasoned veteran who now has an enhanced passion for our mission. I've had the opportunity to travel far and wide, reaching out to new Sponsors, Donors, and Volunteers. Wherever I go, the reaction has been the same: "We get it, and we're behind you." I'm very proud to be associated with an organization that consistently out-performs my expectations.

As we celebrate our Silver Anniversary, *FIRST* continues to gain awareness among kids as well as business, industry, and government leaders.

- ▲ In November, 2013, five award-winning *FIRST*® Robotics Competition teams had the distinct honor of opening the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® in New York City, cutting the official ribbon and shooting confetti along the parade route.
- In December, 2013, all four *FIRST* programs were invited to exhibit at the 2013 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Robotics Challenge in Florida, where university teams demonstrated their prototype robots' ability to perform disaster-response skills. Our huge exhibit attracted large numbers of potential Mentors, Volunteers, Sponsors, and student participants.
- At the 2014 *FIRST* Championship in St. Louis, President Obama gave a special "shout out" (via video) to our 25th Anniversary year and urged more students, adults, and corporations to get involved in our mission.
- ▲ In May, 2014, 12 *FIRST* team members were celebrated at the White House Science Fair for their outstanding STEM work, including the winner of the 2013 *FIRST* Future Innovator Award, sponsored by the Abbott Fund, for a Cycle-Leg invention, an inexpensive prosthesis made from a single recycled bicycle.

I'm confident that *FIRST* will continue to be highly impactful, and this productivity will propel us toward future milestone anniversaries. In the immediate future and for years to come, we expect that *FIRST* will be adopted and celebrated by schools and communities around the globe, and that tomorrow's problem-solving workforce will be made up of countless *FIRST* Alumni. For that, we'll need a steady influx of new Volunteers, Mentors, Sponsors, communicators, gift-givers, and visionaries. Will you or your company be among them?

I salute everyone involved in our 25 years of developing tomorrow's young science and engineering leaders and innovators and helping secure *a better future for us all*.

2014 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

ROBOTS COME FIRST



← Over 3.5 million people in New York City and 50 million people at home tuned in to see giant balloons, one-of-a-kind floats, and **FIRST** robots leading the 87th **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**®

President Obama congratulated **FIRST** for 25 years of inspiring young people in STEM and recognized 12 **FIRST** students for achievements and innovation at the annual White House Science Fair →



WHITE HOUSE HONORS

AGAINST ALL ODDS



← "**Underwater Dreams**" documentary premiered at the 2014 **FIRST** Championship, chronicling a former Arizona **FIRST** team that prevailed over college teams, including MIT, in a sophisticated underwater robotics competition

STEM Education Advocate **will.i.am** recorded "Hall of Fame" by The Script for **FIRST**, encouraging team members to follow their dreams and make an impact on the world →



BE A CHAMPION

MAKING THE CASE



← **Dean Kamen** urged members of Congress to make **FIRST** hands-on, K-12, STEM-learning programs accessible in schools across the country, particularly in underserved and rural areas

Celebrating its fifth year, this **prestigious award** has been bestowed annually on outstanding **FIRST** student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining **FIRST** ideals is exemplary →



DEAN'S LIST AWARD

FIRST PROGRAMS

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.

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Grades 9-12 (ages 14 to 18)

Mentored by professional engineers, teams compete with 120-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

Robotics

Learn from the pros

Game Play

Scholarships

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Grades 7-12 (ages 12 to 18)

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

Robotics

Engineering Notebook

Game Play

Scholarships

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Grades 4-8 (ages 9-16*)

*Ages vary by country

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

Robotics

LEGO

Game Play

Research

JUNIOR FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Grades K-3 (ages 6 to 9)

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

LEGO

Research

EXCEEDING THE WORLD'S EXPECTATIONS

The winner of the 2013 FIRST Future Innovator Award, sponsored by the Abbott Fund, didn't fit in any of the boxes society wanted to put him in. But Parker Owen, member of FIRST® Tech Challenge Team 4260 and FIRST® Robotics Competition Team 3469 from Mobile, Alabama, never let that stop him. "After winning, I realized that thinking differently is in many ways a strength beyond all measure. The ability to see something, not just for what it is, but for what it could be, is what



innovation is all about," Owen reveals. "FIRST has taught me not just how to make an excellent robot, but how to learn by doing."

Owen's winning invention — the Cycle-Leg, an inexpensive prosthesis made from a single recycled bicycle — offers mobility to millions of amputees around the globe. Owen was also honored by President Obama at the 2014 White House Science Fair, and is now in the process of organizing global production and developing a logistical model for his creation. Adds Owen, "For all of the problems in the world, FIRST to me is a solution. FIRST is shaping and encouraging the next generation to be contributors rather than consumers."

"FIRST experiences give young people the toolset they need to build an extraordinary life, career, and, ultimately, a better society."

DEAN KAMEN, FIRST FOUNDER

25 years GROWTH & IMPACT



JUNIOR FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Grades K-3 (ages 6 to 9)

THE CHALLENGE

Teams explored the awe-inspiring storms, quakes, waves, and more that we call natural disasters, then built LEGO® models and created Show Me posters depicting their journey of discovery



COMPETITIONS

More than 100 regional Expos;
Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®)
World Festival Expo in St. Louis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

More than 24,000 6-9 year olds participated on 4,000+ teams to celebrate curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork

NOTEWORTHY

A public library-centered version of Jr.FLL was successfully piloted at libraries in Longmont and Louisville, Colorado, and Cheyenne, Wyoming, in collaboration with STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net), an initiative of the Space Science Institute

“An all-girl team that rocked tiaras while writing simple computer code demonstrates that you don’t have to give up on being girly to enjoy science, technology, engineering, and math.”

SUZANNE DODSON, COACH

EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED

Learned about the worst flooding in nearly 50 years in Colorado (2013) that crippled 200 miles of state highways and 50 bridges, stranding over 6,000 people

Developed a “flood-proof” bridge that automatically retracts when it detects rising waters through a system of sensors, gears, and pulleys

Accepted an invitation from President Obama to attend the White House Science Fair and present their unique bridge idea, DISASTER BLASTER™ LEGO model, and Show Me poster



*Jr.FLL Team 248 “LEGO Queens”
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma*



Read the LEGO Queens’ full profile at www.usfirst.org/aboutus/jr.fll-lego-queens

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Grades 4-8 (ages 9-16*)

*Ages vary by country

THE CHALLENGE

Teams researched and shared their innovative solutions and used a team-designed autonomous robot, programmed with LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology, to complete “missions” for keeping people and property safe before, during, and after a natural disaster

COMPETITIONS

994 qualifying events and 135 Championship Tournaments; FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) World Festival in St. Louis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Approximately 237,000 9-16 year-olds* on 23,748 teams from over 80 countries participated in this season's Challenge

*Ages vary by country

NOTEWORTHY

The Weather Channel's "AMHQ with Sam Champion" broadcasted live from the FIRST LEGO League World Festival, interviewing teams about their innovative solutions for the NATURE'S FURYSM season Challenge



“FIRST LEGO League allows teams to engage in critical thinking, which leads to deeper understanding of the Challenge topic and opens the door for innovation. Team members learn to accept and respect each other while learning how to give back to their community.”

ROBERT ALLSBROOKS, COACH

WINNING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

Inspired by a news story about the disastrous tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, where dozens of pets went missing and were separated from their families

Researched ways to aid recovery of pets during disasters, then designed a drone-based system using RFID (radio frequency identification) technology to help locate animals in need of rescue (the “Drone-Pet-rol”)

Earned Champion's Award at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) FLL Championship in Nashville, and Third Place Innovative Solution Award and the Adult Coach/ Mentor Award at the FLL World Festival in St. Louis



FLL Team 15453 “The Disaster Masters”
Prince Georges County, Maryland



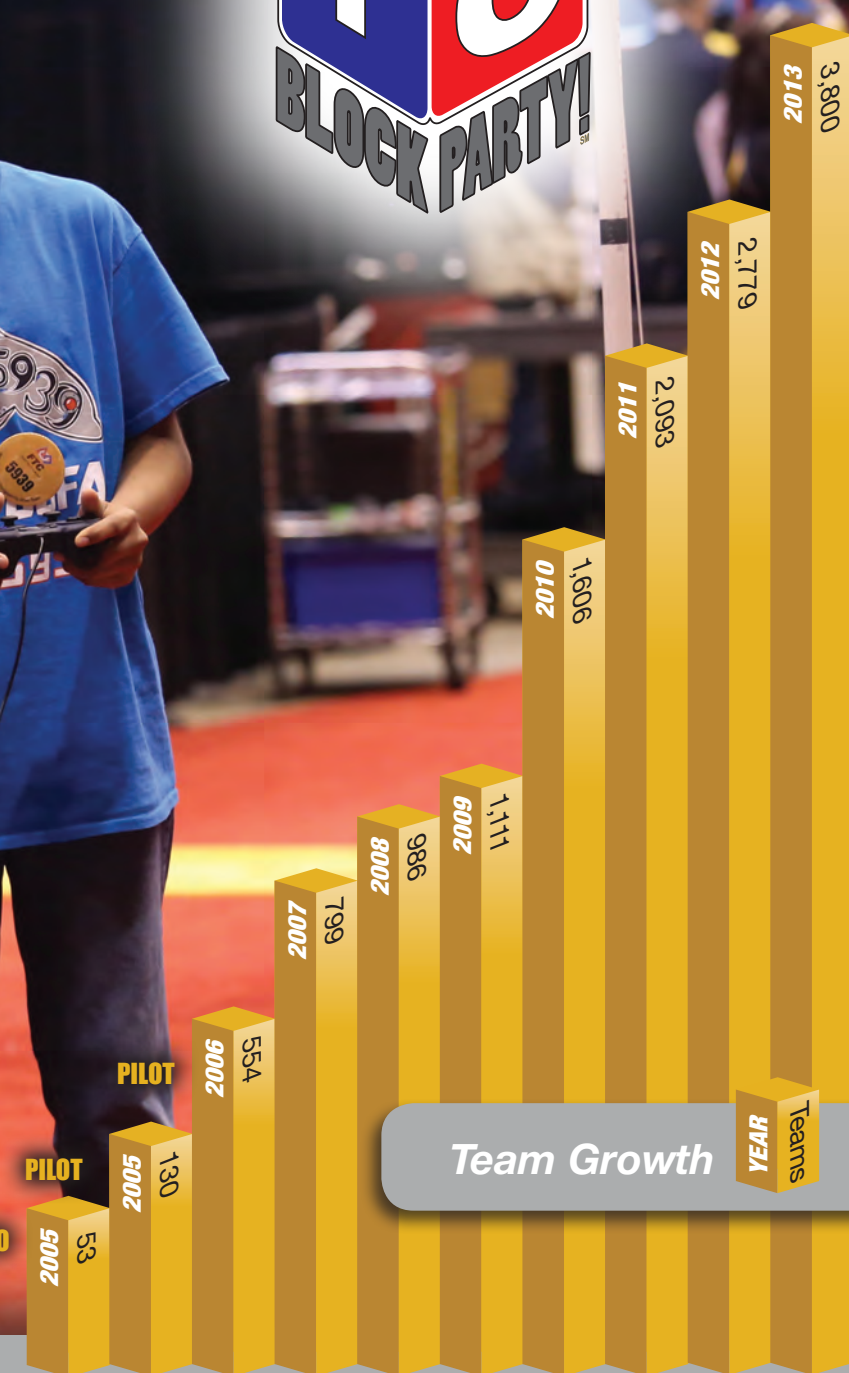
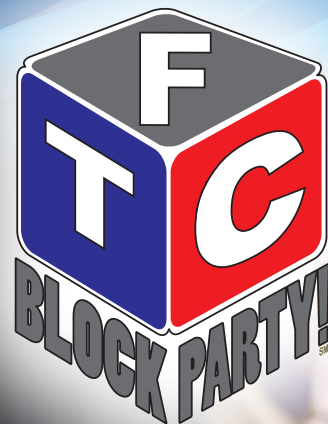
Read The Disaster Masters' full profile at
www.usfirst.org/aboutus/fll-disaster-masters

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Grades 7-12 (ages 12 to 18)

THE CHALLENGE

Teams designed, programmed, and operated robots to score yellow blocks in buckets to balance a pendulum arm, raising their Alliance flag and making their robots do pull-ups



COMPETITIONS

246 Meets, League Championships, and Qualifying Tournaments; 59 Championship Tournaments; 4 Super-Regional Championship Tournaments; FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®) World Championship in St. Louis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

38,000 participants (grades 7-12, ages 12 to 18) on 3,800 teams from 16 countries; eligible for over \$13.5 million in college scholarships

NOTEWORTHY

Four Super-Regional Championship Tournaments introduced a new layer to the FTC event advancement structure, qualifying teams for FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship

“Students with autism have a natural draw to technology and so I think FIRST is a great way to teach them that there are careers for them after high school and even college.”

*KARIN FISHER, COACH & DOCTORAL STUDENT
IN EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA*

NOT YOUR USUAL EXPECTATION

Created by an autism educator to give students with autism a chance to engage in creativity and problem solving skills, as well as an opportunity to be included in an activity with other students their ages

Mentored by local veteran FTC Team 5454 “Dent in the Universe (DITU),” who provided weekly assistance, helping “DECENT” design and build their first robot

Competed successfully in their first tournament, and were exposed to activities, materials, and friendships they wouldn’t have otherwise experienced



*FTC Team 7181 “Dangerous Engineers
Creating Epic New Technologies (DECENT)”
Winter Springs, Florida*



Read DECENT’s full profile at
www.usfirst.org/aboutus/ftc-decent

FIRST[®] ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

THE CHALLENGE

Competing Alliances guided team-designed-and-built robots to throw balls over a truss, catch balls, and put as many balls in goals as possible, with bonus points for working together



COMPETITIONS

40 District Competitions, 4 District Championships, and 54 Regional events; FIRST[®] Robotics Competition (FRC[®]) Championship in St. Louis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over 68,000 high-school students on 2,727 teams from 17 countries; students eligible for over \$20 million in college scholarships from more than 180 Scholarship Providers

NOTEWORTHY

More than 10,000 individual official matches played for the first time in FIRST Robotics Competition history

"FIRST gave me my life back. I want to inspire people to make changes in their lives through an interest in science and technology, as I did."

FREYA WILHELM

BETTER THAN EXPECTED

Disillusioned with her plans for art school, isolated and depressed, started experimenting with drugs

Discovered "Cyber Dragon" FRC team, started to enjoy working with mechanical tools, sparking a new passion, purpose, and sense of responsibility

Became more self-aware, stopped using drugs, and was elected team captain in her second year, setting her sights on an education and career in mechanical engineering



Freya Wilhelm, FRC Team 4263
"Cyber Dragon," New York City



Team Growth



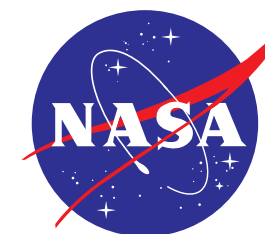
Read Freya's full profile at
www.usfirst.org/aboutus/frc-freya-wilhelm

FIRST SPONSORS

FIRST could not achieve the impact it does without tremendous support

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

FIRST STRATEGIC PARTNERS



FIRST FOUNDING SPONSORS



- Member of the *FIRST* Board of Directors
- ▲ Member of the *FIRST* Executive Advisory Board
- *FIRST* Honorary Director
- * *FIRST* Senior Advisor
- ◆ Matching Gift

**2013-2014 *FIRST* Contributors
Corporations and Foundations**

\$1,000,000+

- Argosy Foundation
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Qualcomm Incorporated
- Rockwell Collins, Inc.
- United Technologies Corporation (UTC)

\$100,000 - \$999,999

- 3M Company
- Abbott Fund
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- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust
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- PTC, Inc.
- RackSpace Hosting
- Rockwell Automation, Inc.
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- Up to \$99,999**
- 100 Black Men of Atlanta Inc.
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- ABB Foundation
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- Advanced Technology Services, Inc.
- Aetna Foundation
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- Allfuses.com
- Alliance for Education
- AllianceBernstein
- Alliant Techsystems Inc.◆
- Altria Group
- Amerex Brokers LLC
- America Makes/National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII)
- America-Israel Friendship League, Inc.
- American Endowment Foundation
- American Friends of the Jewish University in Moscow
- American Heritage Education Foundation
- American Transmission Company LLC
- Amgen Foundation
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- AndyMark, Inc.
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- ARM, Inc.
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- Axalta Coating Systems
- AZ *FIRST***
- BAE Systems Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc.
- BAE Systems ◆
- BAE Systems Matching Gifts Program ◆
- Baldor Electric Company
- Ball Corporation

- Bancroft-Clair Foundation
- Barclays
- Barnes & Thornburg IP Group
- Jim and Dede Bartlett Foundation
- Baxter Healthcare Corporation
- BBL Hospitality
- The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Best Buy Children's Foundation
- Best Buy Co., Inc.
- BEST Robotics
- Bialkin Family Foundation
- Blackbaud Inc.
- B.L.A.S.T., Inc.
- Blue Streak Reprographics
- Bluemedia, Inc.
- BNY Mellon
- The Boeing Company ◆
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Boost 11 Foundation
- Booz Allen Hamilton ◆
- Bostock Family Foundation
- Bovin Family Foundation
- BP Corporation North America, Inc.
- Bracewell & Giuliani
- Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
- Bright Funds Foundation
- Broadridge Foundation
- Bud Industries
- CACI, Inc.
- California Space Grant Foundation
- California State University, Fresno
- Calloway County Extension 4-H
- Canal Park Business Association (CPBA)
- Canal Park Lodge LLC
- The Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Caterpillar Global Mining, LLC
- Caterpillar, Inc.
- CenterPoint Energy
- Central Intelligence Agency
- CETYS Universidad Baja California
- Cherokee Nation
- Chesapeake Energy Corporation
- Chevron Corporation
- The Chickasaw Nation
- CIGNA Foundation
- Cincinnati State Technical & Community College
- Cincinnati Test Systems
- Cirrus Aircraft
- Cisco Foundation ◆
- Cisco Systems, Inc.
- Citizens for Backus/AB, Inc.
- City of Cambridge
- Cleveland County 4-H Foundations, Inc.
- Cohen Electric Service, Inc.
- Colorado Consortium for Earth and Space Science Education

- Comal ISD
- Comfort Inn of Duluth
- Comfort Suites of Canal Park
- Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
- Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, Inc.
- Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty
- Community Partners
- Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa
- Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program
- Connecting for Children and Families, Inc.
- Connective Capital Management
- Cooper Industries Foundation
- The Leon and Toby Cooperman Family Foundation
- Cornell University
- Corning Incorporated
- County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency
- Cox Communications
- CPS Energy
- Credit Suisse Americas Foundation
- Credit Suisse (USA), Inc.
- Crest Operations, LLC
- CSC Charitable Foundation
- D&K Engineering
- Dana Corporation
- Dana Holding
- Deep Space Systems, Inc.
- DEKA Research & Development Corporation in memory of David J. Stickler
- Dell Giving
- Dell, Inc.
- Deloitte
- DeLorme Publishing Company
- Delphi Corporation
- Delphi Foundation
- Demand Electric, Inc.
- Detroit And Downriver Area Robotic Alliance, Inc.
- Devon Energy Corporation
- DeVry University
- Dickstein Shapiro LLP
- Digi-Key
- DigiPen USA Corporation
- Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.
- Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
- DonorsChoose.org
- The Dow Chemical Company
- The Dow Chemical Company Foundation
- Draper Laboratory
- The Drexler Family Foundation
- DUECO, Inc.
- Duke Energy
- DuPont
- Dust Control Technology, Inc.
- Eaton Computer Services
- Eaton Corporation



In 2014, as part of the *FIRST* Scholarship Program, over 180 Scholarship Providers made available over \$20 million in scholarship opportunities to *FIRST* Robotics Competition team members. *FIRST* Tech Challenge participants were eligible for \$13.5 million of these funds.

The majority of *FIRST* scholarships are offered by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses; the remainder are made available by corporations, associations, or foundations for use at a selection of schools. The 2014 *FIRST* Scholarships are listed on pages 31-32.

To learn more about the *FIRST* Scholarship Program, or make available *FIRST* Scholarships from your institution, please visit:

WWW.USFIRST.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS



- Ecolab
- Ecolab Foundation
- ECONorthwest
- EFC Systems
- Mitzi and Warren Eisenberg Family Foundation
- Electronic Arts, Inc. ◆
- Elemental Technologies
- Emerson Industrial Automation
- Emerson Process Management
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- eStop Robotics LLC
- Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation
- ev3 Inc.
- Events, Inc.
- Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum
- Evolution Markets, Inc.
- Exeter Venture Management Company, LLC
- Expert Access
- Exxon Mobil Corporation
- ExxonMobil Foundation Volunteer Involvement Program ◆
- Fans of the Everglades Restoration Magnet Inc.
- FedEx Corporation
- Ferland Family Foundation, Inc.
- Fidelity Investments
- FIRST* in Michigan
- FIRST* Robotics of Canada
- First Solar Company
- First Tech Credit Union
- FLIR Systems, Inc.
- Florida *FIRST* Robotics Education Foundation
- Florida Power & Light Company
- Florida Underwater Sports
- Ford Motor Company
- Friends of Hawaii Robotics
- Frontier Electronic Systems Corp.
- Fruition Partners, Inc.
- Future Seekers Inc.
- Gads Hill Center

- Christopher Galvin Foundation
- Gas Processors Association
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ◆
- GE Oil & Gas
- GenCorp Foundation
- General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation
- General Dynamics
- General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems
- General Electric Aviation
- General Electric Company
- General Electric Energy (Atlanta)
- General Mills Foundation
- Genesis Attachments
- GEO Foundation
- George Mason University
- Georgia Power Co. (A Southern Co.)
- Georgia *FIRST*
- Gerald Mele & Associates, Inc.
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas
- The Gleason Works
- Global Foundries
- Global Impact
- GoDaddy
- Goldman, Sachs & Company Matching Gift Program ◆
- Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
- Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
- Goldman Sonnenfeldt Foundation
- Goodin MacBride Squeri Day & Lamprey, LLP
- Google Matching Gifts Program ◆
- Gopher Electronics
- The Grable Foundation
- The GRACO Foundation
- Granite Bench Charitable Foundation
- Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Texas Foundation
- Greenspan Foundation

- Griffith Restoration Inc. DBA Servpro of Auburn/Rocklin
- Hall Estill
- Hampton Dental Group, P.C.
- Hampton Inn
- Harpak, Inc.
- Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division
- Hartel's/DBJ Disposal
- Hartfiel Automation
- Hawkeye Engraving
- Healthios, Inc. (formerly The Aethena Group, LLC)
- Ivy Tech Foundation
- J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.
- Jacobs Technology, Inc.
- The Jamar Company
- James & Co. Lighting
- JCPenney ◆
- Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest NJ
- John's Janitorial
- The JPMorgan Chase Foundation ◆
- Juan Young Trust
- Juneau Economic Development Council
- Jurkovich Doak Development
- Kaua'i Economic Development Board
- Kaufman Engineered Systems
- KBR
- KC STEM Alliance
- kcsproductions I.I.c.
- kCura
- Keker & Van Ness LLP
- Kentucky Engineering Foundation
- Kerith Foundation
- Kettering University
- Kiamichi Technology Center
- Kimberly-Clark Corporation
- Kirkpatrick Foundation, Inc.
- Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
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FIRST FOUNDER'S AWARD



At the 2014 FIRST Championship, Founder Dean Kamen recognized the event's Presenting Sponsor, Qualcomm Incorporated, with the Founder's Award for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of FIRST.

Since 2007, Qualcomm has provided significant financial contributions in support of teams, FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) events and Mentor stipends, the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Global Innovation Award sponsored by XPRIZE, and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Super-Regionals.

Qualcomm has also increased its Volunteer investment in FIRST each year. The company provided an estimated 100 Volunteers this season across the FIRST programs, as local event Volunteers, Mentors, and Coaches, providing technical support at events, and offering FIRST recruiting and information sessions in all of the company's key geographies. Qualcomm engineers are working with FIRST to develop robust communication systems for both the FRC and FTC programs and to ensure quality wireless communication environments at the FIRST Championship.

Dr. Paul E. Jacobs, Qualcomm Executive Chairman and member of the FIRST Board of Directors, accepted the award from Kamen, telling the crowd of 30,000: "Wow! There's a lot of brain power in this room. What do you guys think? There's almost no problem that we can't solve with this kind of talent."

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2014 WOODIE FLOWERS AWARD WINNER

The 2014 Woodie Flowers Award winner, Lane Matheson, Director of the Tulsa Engineering Academy at Memorial High School and Mentor for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 932 "Circuit Chargers," is a visionary leader and the first to bring engineering into K-12 education in Oklahoma.

Matheson left a profitable career as a systems engineer on the International Space Station program to prepare students for the rigors of studying engineering. While developing her own high-school engineering curriculum, she chose to incorporate *FIRST* robotics programs, ultimately introducing a robotics class where students improve their leadership, speaking, and power tool skills alike. In 2005, she created the Tulsa Engineering Academy, an academic magnet program within the school.

Matheson has recruited more than 70 Coaches and Mentors for teams across the *FIRST* Progression of Programs. She teaches programming for all levels, helps Coaches with funding, and deploys her students and their robots to recruit other kids for these rookie teams.

Matheson encourages students to *"Embrace the Struggle! Celebrate the Success!"* She helps them overcome their fears and build their confidence in public speaking, creates opportunities for them to mentor other students, and is a champion for young women.



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 Director of the Tulsa Engineering Academy at Memorial High School

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YOUNG INVENTORS



The 4th annual FLL Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE

This award encourages, celebrates, and supports youth innovation, offering teams an opportunity to further develop and submit ideas stemming from the season's NATURE'S FURYSM projects.

First Place winners of the 2014 FLL Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE: FIRST LEGO League Rookie Team "The Brain Busters" of Sherborn, Massachusetts

Invention:
Balloon-based notification sign indicates where to find aid after a natural disaster, when traditional infrastructure is not available. The large sign is suspended from a helium balloon that can be seen from very long distances and deployed in high winds, snow storms, and extreme cold

The FIRST Future Innovator Award sponsored by the Abbott Fund

This award 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.

Winners of the 3rd annual 2014 FIRST Future Innovator Award sponsored by the Abbott Fund:
Michelle Yang, Alexander Lu, and Valerie Huynh of FIRST Robotics Competition Team 5212 "TAMsformers" of Denton, Texas

Invention:
Solar still made of common materials streamlines the process of water filtration, providing cost-effective access to clean water for impoverished populations in underdeveloped countries

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Global Partners

The following key organizations and Volunteers in the field organize the Junior FIRST LEGO League program in their respective regions.

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Stichting Techniekpromotie

China

Eugene Zhang
Semia Limited

Denmark

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MTÜ Robotika

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The Netherlands

Sander Ezendam
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FIRST Scandinavia

South Africa

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Tshwane University of Technology

Spain

Eugenia Prenafeta
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Sweden

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2013-2014 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Global Partners

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Australia

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Macquarie University

Austria

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Bahrain

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King Hussein Foundation

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Stichting Techniekpromotie

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Cristina Elsner de Faria
SESI – Brazilian Social Services of Industry –
National Department

Bulgaria

Astrid Müller
HANDS on TECHNOLOGY e.V.

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FLL Alberta Youth Robotics Society

Newfoundland/Labrador

Clarence Button
Mount Pearl

Nova Scotia

Gary Walsh
Acadia University

Ontario

David Ellis
FLL Ontario

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Indonesia

Bambang Rusli
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Gareth James
Ahmed Kotb
The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Israel

Alisha MacIntyre
Yaarit Levy
Technion – FIRST Israel

Italy

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Japan

Hideki Kamoshida
FIRST Japan

Jordan

Ismail Yasein Hasan
King Hussein Foundation

Republic of Korea

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

Kuwait

Ismail Yasein Hasan
King Hussein Foundation

Latvia

Heilo Altin
MTÜ Robotika

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Technology Center

Lithuania

Arturas Gaulia
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Robotikos Akademija

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Sasbadi Sdn Bhd

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Kiwi FIRST

Norway

Per-Arild Konradsen
Nina Sivertsen
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Awareness and Recognition for All)

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Evoluir21

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Maxim Petrov
Volnoe Delo Foundation

Saudi Arabia

Saeed Atef Saeed
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Duck Learning

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Johannes de Vries
Tshwane University of Technology

Spain

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Fundación Scientia

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Nina Sivertsen
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Astrid Müller
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Thailand

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Gammaco (Thailand) Co. Ltd.

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Davut Habip
Bilim Kahramanlari Dernegi

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Ahmed Kotb
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Alabama

Dana Hobbs
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Dr. Kory Bennett
North Carolina A&T State University

North Dakota

Ashley Miller
University of North Dakota,
School of Engineering & Mines

Ohio

Angela Riethman
Educational Outreach
Wright Patterson Air Force Base

Oklahoma

Craig Shreve
Oklahoma Science and Engineering
Foundation (OKSEF)

Oregon

Cathy Swider
Bruce Schafer
Oregon Robotics Tournament
and Outreach Program

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Melanie Ford
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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Rebecca Hayward
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Pennsylvania – West

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Carnegie Mellon University

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Mary Graves
SC FLL and Robotics Education, Inc.

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Bradley Weil
Tennessee Technological University

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Alamo College – Northwest Vista College

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Teresa Lenling
Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Texas – South

Karen Cohen
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Texas – Southwest

Gabby Gandara
Virgilio Gonzalez
University of Texas at El Paso

Texas – West

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Daniel Kohn
Frank Niedzwiedz
University of Memphis

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Ben Senson
Ben Stein
BadgerBOTS

Wyoming

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Natrona County School District

Yemen

Ismail Yasein Hasan
King Hussein Foundation

2013-2014 FIRST**TECH CHALLENGE**

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

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Michael Heimlich
Macquarie University

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Alberta
Michel Gariépy

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Semia Limited

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Alice Caplier
INP Grenoble

Germany

Fränzi Ronneburg
HANDS on TECHNOLOGY e.V.

India

Sudhanshu Sharma
Rajan Malhotra
India STEM Foundation

Republic of Korea

Professor Kyoung-Mihn Do
FEST Creative Engineering Education Association (Feeling and Enjoying Science & Technology Organization)

Mexico

Bárbara Gómez de Navarro
Explora, Descubre Y Crea, AC

The Netherlands

Lennart de Graaf
Fontys Hogeschool

New Zealand

Jason Kyle
Kiwi *FIRST*

Romania

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Romanian Robotics Education Initiative
Central and Eastern Schools Association
American International School of Bucharest

Russia

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Volnoe Delo Foundation

Saudi Arabia

Husam Al Madani
National Talent Training Center

Singapore

Clarence Sirisena
Science Centre Singapore

Taiwan

Johnson Jan
ESUN Robot Association

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Juneau Economic Development Council

Arizona

Christine Sapio
Coconino High School

David Thompson
Northern Arizona University

Arkansas

Jacquelyn Meissner
Mountain Home High School –
Career Academies

California – Los Angeles

Liberty Naud
SMaRT Education

California – Northern California

Jill Wilker
Mark Edelman
Playing @ Learning

California – San Diego

John and Marion Brooks

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Matthew Collier
Kathy Collier
LAUNCH

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Georgia *FIRST*

Hawaii

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University of Idaho Extension 4-H

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Shawn Payne
Jessica Cecil
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and Technical College

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Massachusetts

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MIT Lincoln Laboratory

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Betsy Lamb
Cranbrook Schools

Michigan Middle School

Francois Castaing
Gail Alpert
FIRST in Michigan

Minnesota

Cheryl Moeller
High Tech Kids

Mississippi

John O'Haver
University of Mississippi

Missouri

Dr. Marcia Pfeiffer
Ashok Agrawal
St. Louis Community College

Montana

Ed Huth
Pippin Wallace
Oracle

Nevada – Las Vegas

David Philippi
Northwest Career and Technical Academy

Nevada

Jean Hoppert
FIRST Nevada

New Jersey

Joel Bloom
New Jersey Institute of Technology

New York City

Ben Esner
Polytechnic Institute of New York University
Center for K-12 STEM Education

New York – Hudson Valley

Richard Kline
Pace University

New York – Potsdam

James Carroll
Clarkson University

North Carolina

Dr. Kory Bennett
North Carolina A&T State University

North Dakota

Paul Keidel
Bismarck Career Academy

Ohio

Linda Neenan
iSPACE, Inc.

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Dr. Blake Sonobe
Southwest Oklahoma State University

Oregon

Bruce Schafer
Cathy Swider
Oregon University System

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Pennsylvania *FIRST* Robotics

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Erin Flynn
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Republic of Korea

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FEST Creative Engineering Education Association

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Taiwan

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San Jacinto College

Texas – San Antonio

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University of Vermont

Virginia

Carol Edelman
Glen Davis
Matthew Glennon
Pattie Cook

Washington

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Wisconsin

Julianne Pickering
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

2014 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

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

Canada

FIRST Robotics Canada

Israel

FIRST Israel

Mexico

Fundación Azteca

United States**Arizona**

AZFirst

Colorado

Colorado Robotics Excelling at Science and Technology – CREST (Colorado *FIRST*)

Florida

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

Georgia

Georgia *FIRST* Robotics Inc.

Hawaii

Friends of Hawaii Robotics

Indiana

Purdue University

Louisiana

BLaST, Inc.
(Building Louisiana Science and Technology)

Michigan

FIRST in Michigan

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mid-Atlantic Robotics,
a NJ Non-Profit Corp. (MAR)

Missouri

University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC)

Nevada

FIRST Nevada

New England

ingenuityNE Inc.

New York City

New York City *FIRST*

New York – Long Island

School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI)

North Carolina

NC *FIRST* Robotics

Ohio

Ohio Aerospace Institute

South Carolina

Palmetto Partners for
Science and Technology

Tennessee

TN*FIRST*, LLC

Texas

FIRST in Texas

Virginia

Virginia *FIRST*

Washington

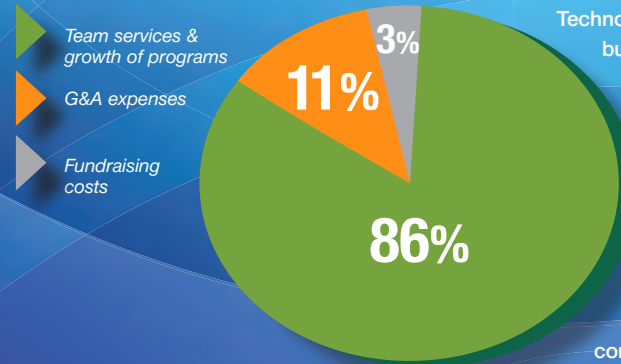
Washington *FIRST* Robotics

FINANCIALS

Program expansion and mission successes continued in fiscal year 2013-2014 with balanced growth in revenues and expense, including increased investments in our Youth Protection Program, Information Technology, and Program Evaluation. Contributions remained strong, as many individuals, small businesses, corporations — including over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies — and foundations maintained or increased their support while new Sponsors joined *FIRST*. This support provided meaningful experiences to more than 367,000 youth engaged in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs.

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

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



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	JUNE 30, 2014	JUNE 30, 2013
<i>Revenues and other support:</i>		
Program registration fees	\$ 20,474,334	\$ 19,060,850
Contributions and grants	19,111,341	18,238,363
Other income, net of expenses of \$93,186 in 2014 and \$86,580 in 2013	983,529	1,062,714
Special project, net of expenses of \$725,116 in 2014 and \$551,381 in 2013	126,385	45,145
Net assets released from restrictions	14,739,677	12,501,544
Total revenues and other support	55,435,266	50,908,616
<i>Expenses:</i>		
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition (FRC)	36,203,436	33,406,617
<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (FLL) and Junior <i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (Jr.FLL)	6,400,585	5,853,938
<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge (FTC)	3,050,151	2,178,267
<i>FIRST</i> Place (FP)	12,562	63,451
Net cost of building space occupied by unrelated not-for-profit organizations	244,774	227,306
General, administrative and supporting services, and fundraising	7,262,637	6,399,969
Operation of <i>FIRST</i> facility	418,621	377,549
Depreciation	529,923	471,183
Total expenses	54,122,689	48,978,280
<i>Operating surplus</i>	<i>1,312,577</i>	<i>1,930,336</i>
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
<i>Assets:</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents*	18,225,785	13,398,774
Short-term investments*	8,500,000	10,500,000
Pledges, receivables, and other assets	8,102,948	11,858,347
Net property, plant, and equipment	3,961,488	4,148,808
Total assets, end of year	38,790,221	39,905,929
<i>Liabilities and net assets:</i>		
Total liabilities, end of year	2,276,854	3,914,962
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	21,766,706	18,454,129
Temporarily restricted	14,746,661	17,536,838
Total net assets, end of year	36,513,367	35,990,967
Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 38,790,221	\$ 39,905,929

For each of the two fiscal years summarized above, *FIRST* received an unmodified (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, 2014, is equivalent to approximately five months of *FIRST* operating expenses.

The financial information presented here is condensed and does not include the value of all donated services and materials. Audited Financial Statements (AFS) are readily available on the Web site at www.usfirst.org under "ABOUT US/Annual Report & Financials." Certain amounts reported for 2013 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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Senior Vice President
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Head of Global Markets & Research
Technology, Retired
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EuroScandia Enterprises

James E. Heppelmann
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PTC

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TEDMED

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Woodrow Wilson International
Center for Scholars

Kyle Hughes
Founder and Teacher
Clarkston High School Science,
Mathematics, and
Technology Academy

Jacob Kragh
President
LEGO Education

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Program Executive for
Solar System Exploration
NASA

Paul Lazarus
President
White Dwarf Productions

Susie Mathieu
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Spirit Hockey, LLC

Ceci Neumann
Independent Law Practice
Professional

Kevin Ross
Founder
Washington *FIRST* Robotics

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Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

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Vice President, Programs
FIRST

Terry Durkin
Vice President, Finance
FIRST

Mark Giordano
Vice President, Development
FIRST

Mark Greenlaw
Vice President, Digital Engagement
FIRST

Roseann Stevens
Vice President, Field Operations,
Volunteer Resources,
and Youth Protection
FIRST

Listing current as of February 2015

Championship photography by Adriana M. Groisman, Argenis Apolinario, and Dan Donovan. Other images courtesy of *FIRST* teams, Volunteers, and Sponsors.



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

MORE THAN ROBOTS. FIRST participation is proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, inspire them to become leaders and innovators, and enhance their 21st century work-life skills.

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