



2012 Annual Report

FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WWW.USFIRST.ORG

CHANGE THE FUTURE





CHANGE THE CULTURE



FIRST® is about changing our culture...

for the better. More than 20 years ago, Dean Kamen, a pioneering inventor, saw a culture where celebrities and sports stars were celebrated and revered, and scientists and engineers were not. He believed that the world's future would depend on getting more kids from every background interested in and turned on to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) so that they might seek education and careers in these fields. With the help of many, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was established as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity

with the mission to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting, Mentor-based robotics and research programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills; inspire innovation; and foster self-confidence, team-building, and leadership.

Over these two decades, what *FIRST* has accomplished is nothing short of awe-inspiring, experiencing meteoric growth, attracting hundreds of thousands of youth worldwide (along with tens of thousands of adult Volunteers and thousands of Sponsors) who have discovered *that they can be anything they want to be and whose life paths have been forever changed.*

YOU CAN HELP THE CHANGE CONTINUE

Learn the full *FIRST* story and its phenomenal growth path at www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms



Today, even the worlds of entertainment and professional sports are rushing in to celebrate what *FIRST* is accomplishing and to help spread the word.

2012 Season Highlights

White House Honors

President Barack Obama recognized seven *FIRST* students for their innovative ideas, teamwork, and patent-pending inventions at the White House Science Fair.



Innovation Celebration

The Global Innovation Award for *FIRST*® LEGO® League teams was awarded to two teams for their food safety ideas; the *FIRST* Future Innovator Award was introduced to recognize *FIRST*® Tech Challenge and *FIRST*® Robotics Competition teams for creativity in effectively solving a real-world, complex problem.



Mentors Fly High

24 *FIRST* Mentors were invited to fine tune their leadership skills at the U.S. Air Force Leadership Experience at Cape Canaveral.



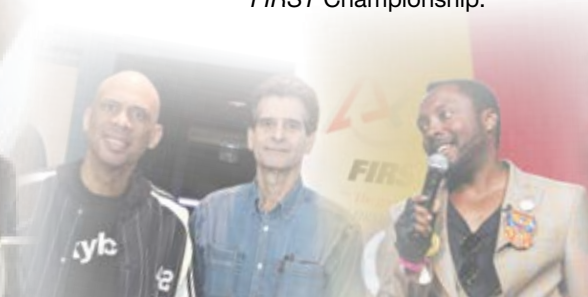
New Inspirational Alliances

A Strategic Alliance was formed with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, as well as Alliances with the National Parent Teacher Association and the Yale Science and Engineering Association.



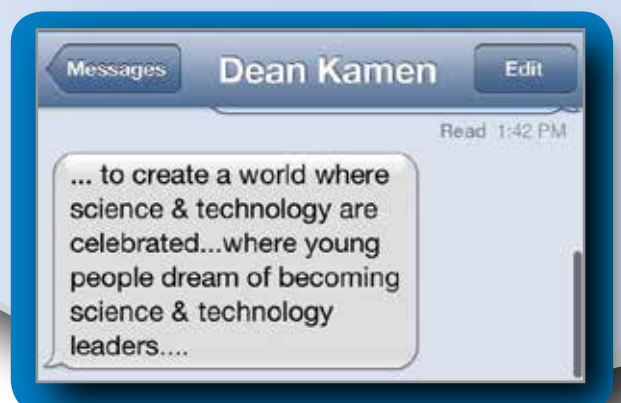
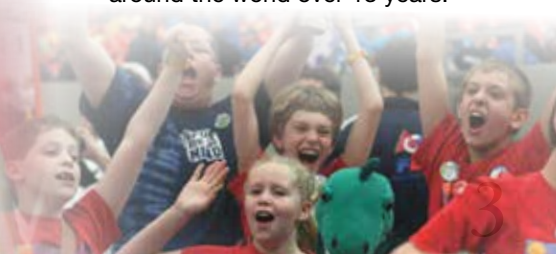
FIRST Championship

will.i.am, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and numerous Fortune 100 CEOs joined a record 646 teams at the 2012 *FIRST* Championship.



One Million Strong

FIRST LEGO League celebrated an amazing milestone — more than one million experiences provided to children around the world over 13 years.





CHANGE YOUNG MINDS



FIRST IN HISTORY

1989
Founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire passion in young people for science and technology

1992
28 teams compete in inaugural FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®)

1995
Inaugural Championship held at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center

1996
Inaugural FIRST® Scholarship awarded by Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

1997
Founding Sponsors join forces to kickstart FIRST growth rate

1998
FIRST and the LEGO Group agree to form a junior robotics program with 200 teams in pilot year

2004
Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) launched, bringing the FIRST experience to children ages 6 to 9

2005
FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®) introduced as a pilot to provide a more accessible FIRST program

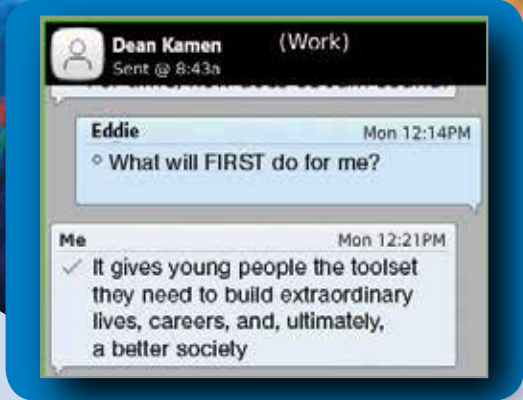
2007
President George W. Bush honors FIRST teams at the White House; FIRST introduces Alliance program

2008
Strategic Partner designation created for outstanding FIRST Sponsors

2010
Teams honored by President Barack Obama at White House Science Fair; FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) Global Innovation Award introduced

2011
will.i.am attends FIRST Championship; features FTC and FRC in "i.am FIRST®: Science is Rock and Roll" TV special on the ABC network

2012
FLL celebrates 1,000,000 experiences; FIRST Scholarships reach \$15 million; FIRST reaches 280,000 youth through 100,000 Volunteers



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 PROGRAMS

Jr.FLL Grades K-3
Junior FIRST® LEGO® League

FLL Grades 4-8
FIRST® LEGO® League

FTC Grades 7-12
FIRST® Tech Challenge

FRC Grades 9-12
FIRST® Robotics Competition

Teams explore today's scientific challenges, then present their research using a LEGO® model with moving parts and a "Show-Me" poster:

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

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.

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.



DEAN KAMEN
FOUNDER

WALTER P. HAVENSTEIN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

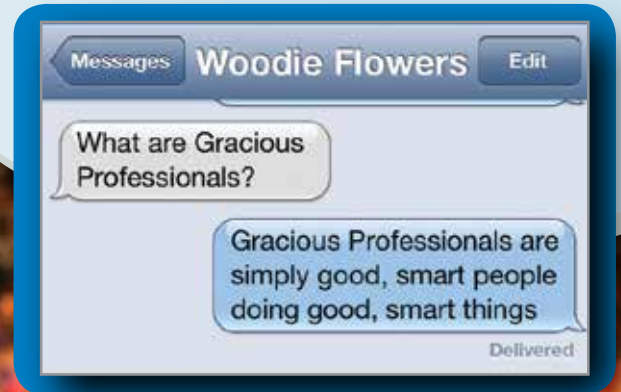
CHANGE THE WORLD

Over two decades ago, the *FIRST*® organization came together to help change a world where the values of young people were skewed toward entertainment and sports. Our goal was, and still is, to create a world where science and technology is recognized and celebrated. We imagine a world where young people can be exposed to the fun and excitement of science and technology in hopes that they choose it as a career path, becoming tomorrow's so very needed technological leaders.

While decades of effort and investment by hundreds of thousands of adult

Volunteers, thousands of companies big and small, sports and entertainment moguls, and government leaders have grown our once tiny organization into a global force for change, *we are still far from reaching our goal*. Far too many teachers and students have yet to discover *FIRST*, or do not have the opportunity to get involved. We continue to pursue our mission by working to make *FIRST* available to every student who wants to participate.

It takes an active and engaged community to make these changes. What can you do? Volunteer locally. Become a Mentor. Help raise funds. Sponsor a team. Commit your company's time, people, and resources. Help spread the



2012 Amazing Numbers



- ▶ **280,000+**
Youth participants worldwide (ages 6 to 18)
- ▶ **100,000**
Adult Volunteers
- ▶ **8,000,000+**
Donated hours
- ▶ **50/60+**
U.S. States/Countries
- ▶ **\$15,000,000**
Scholarships available

word wherever you can. With your help and support, we hope to see *FIRST* flourish in all of our schools and community organizations. Our world desperately needs the next generation of inspired scientists and engineers that *FIRST* can help produce.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to a small army of people from many fields who lend their influence, time, and resources to help us effect change: President Barack Obama; entertainment mogul will.i.am; NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; key government representatives; numerous Fortune 100 CEOs; members of the *FIRST* Board of Directors; and so many more who offer their brilliance and vision. Our sincere and humble gratitude to our growing and indispensable collection of Volunteers, Sponsors, Mentors, teachers, parents, friends, and fans who make *FIRST* run and help it grow. Thank you all!

WHAT NUMBERS CAN YOU ADD TO?
www.usfirst.org/donate



We continue to commit ourselves to the task of making *FIRST* programs available to every child who dreams big, and to every adult who believes in the importance of developing our next technological wonders.

Dean Kamen
Dean Kamen, *FIRST* Founder

W. P. Havenstein
Walter P. Havenstein, *FIRST* Chairman

HOW TO TALK LIKE A *FIRST* FAN

- Coopertition®**
Compete like crazy, but also help the other teams.
- Sport for the Mind™**
What you say when someone asks, "What's *FIRST*?"
- Gracious Professionalism®**
What every *FIRST* team practices: respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you learned.



SUKI BERRY



CHANGE AN OUTCOME

A Work of Art in Progress

For most students, *FIRST* is a way to feed their passion for science and technology or help build a college admissions resume. For Suki Berry, a budding artist and senior at San Dieguito Academy High School in Encinitas, CA, *FIRST* is nothing short of a lifeline.

Since middle school, her home life and academic performance have been unstable as a result of divorced parents still living together due to financial hardship. Suki found the structure, focus, and direction she needed by joining *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 2102, “Team Paradox.”

“When I joined the team, I felt like I was part of a shared goal. It made me feel important and also safe,” says Berry, living temporarily with a family she met through *FIRST*.

Although eager to learn to weld, the team needed Suki’s skills in the arts even more, to design merchandise and create logos. The team even modified the STEM acronym to “STEAM,” adding an “A” for art.

Berry melds the creative side of things — painting, design, and sculpture — with endeavors such as project management and public relations. She is now one of the presidents of the team’s marketing arm — designing, sewing, and printing team merchandise, as well as creating promotional videos.

WHOSE LIFE WILL YOU HELP CHANGE?

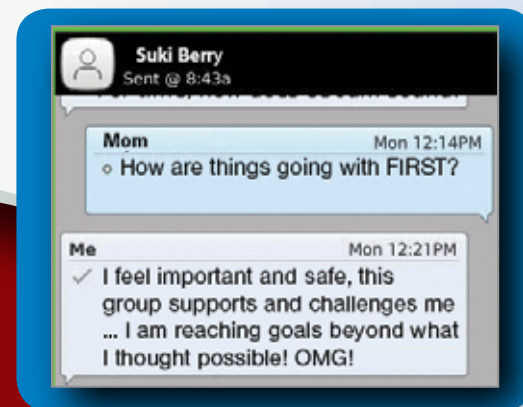
www.usfirst.org/volunteer-for-change



“Through *FIRST*, I’ve discovered an organization with teachers, Mentors, and parent Volunteers who not only support me, but also challenge me to exceed my own expectations; to reach beyond what I thought possible,” says Berry.

“I honestly don’t know what my current situation would be if I hadn’t connected with all these wonderful friends.”

As of publication, Berry is majoring in Graphic Communications at Palomar College, San Marcos, CA.



CHANGE KIDS’ LIVES

Researched and documented facts about the impact of FIRST on today’s youth:*

FIRST PARTICIPANTS 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

IN COLLEGE, THEY 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

*Source: Brandeis University “More Than Robots” Evaluation, 2005



LISA GAYE
PARENT VOLUNTEER



TEAM GROWTH

YEAR
Teams

2011
2,985

2010
2,147

2007
1,448

2008
1,203

2007
1,004

2006
702

2005
327

2004
125

Accomplishments »

18,000 6-9 year olds participated on 2,985 teams from 50 U.S. states and 8 countries to celebrate curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork

Competitions »

More than 90 regional Expos; Jr.FLL World Festival Expo in St. Louis

Noteworthy »

As the entry-level program in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs, Jr.FLL is the fastest-growing, with global reach



The Challenge »

Teams explored their favorite snack from farm to table, learned how it is kept fresh and safe to eat, then built LEGO® models and created Show-Me posters depicting their journey of discovery.

INSPIRATION
AT A GLANCE

Lisa Gaye

Parent Volunteer, "PS11 LEGO LEADERS"
Manhattan, NY

Read Lisa's full profile at » www.usfirst.org/lisa-gaye



Welcomed

the duties of helping to coach a Jr.FLL team at PS11, the elementary school her child attended

Helped

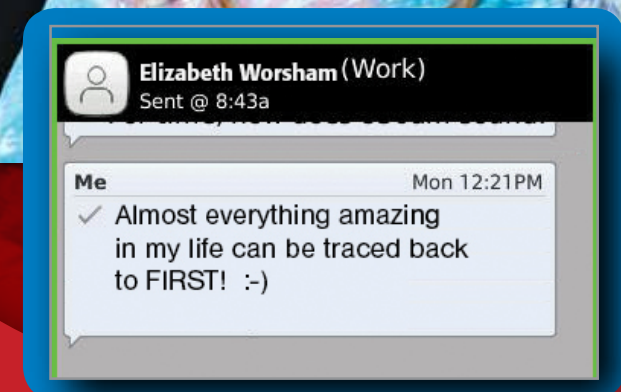
shy, young team develop their articulation of ideas and public speaking skills

Led

Jr.FLL graduates into formation of a school-based FLL team for enhanced skill-building with real robots



ELIZABETH WORSHAM



TEAM GROWTH



FLL
FIRST® LEGO® League
Grades 4-8+

Accomplishments »

Approximately 183,000 kids on 18,323 teams from more than 60 countries participated in this season's Challenge

Competitions »

564 qualifying events, 86 Championship Tournaments; FLL World Festival in St. Louis

Noteworthy »

More than one million FLL experiences provided to children around the world; FLL Global Innovation Award encourages, celebrates, and supports youth innovation for the second year



The Challenge »

Teams researched and shared their innovative solutions for safer food preparation and storage, and completed food safety missions with an autonomous robot they designed and programmed using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT.

INSPIRATION AT A GLANCE

Elizabeth Worsham

FIRST Alumna; Freshman, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Read Elizabeth's inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/elizabeth-worsham



Participated

in eight seasons of FLL, FTC, and FRC; mentored eight FLL teams; volunteered over 200 hours a year for STEM-based programs

Competed

in the Women in STEM High School Aerospace Scholars program; selected for Internship at NASA Glenn Research Center through the NASA INSPIRE program

Offered

\$60,000 in FIRST Scholarships, an accomplishment she attributes to "just having fun"



TEAM GROWTH



FTC
FIRST® Tech Challenge
Grades 7-12

Accomplishments »

More than 20,000 participants on 2,100 teams from 13 countries; eligible for over \$10 million in college scholarships

Competitions »

200 Qualifying and Championship Tournaments; FTC World Championship in St. Louis



The Challenge »

Teams designed, programmed, and drove robots robust enough to push a bowling ball uphill, yet sophisticated enough to pick up racquetballs, place them into crates, then stack and lift the crates to score points.

INSPIRATION AT A GLANCE

Vivian Stepp

FTC Alumna; Sophomore, Georgia Tech

Read Vivian's inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/vivian-stepp

Credited

community group *100 Black Men of Atlanta* and FTC as the launch pad for her success, starting at age 14

Recruited

female students to form an all-girl FTC team; took on leadership role as lead programmer and captain

Accepted

into Georgia Tech; named a Gates Millennium Scholar; mentors FLL, FTC, and FRC teams

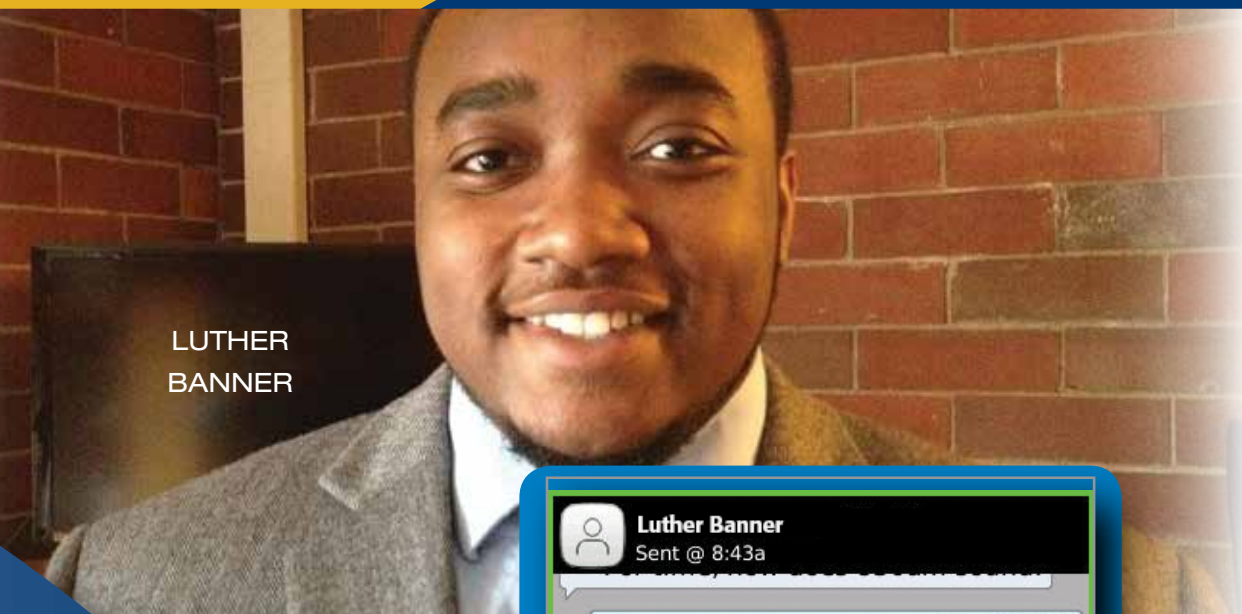
VIVIAN STEPP



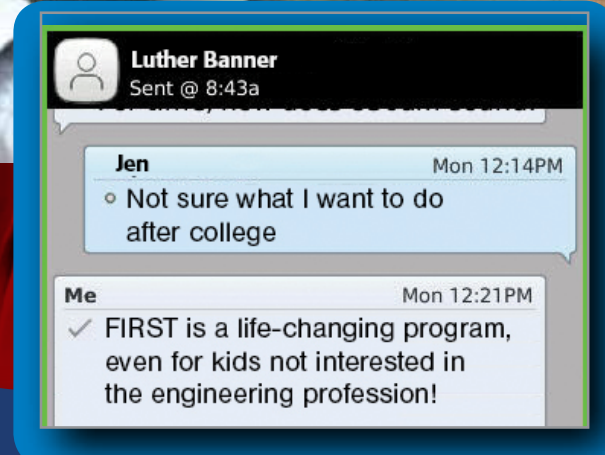
Noteworthy »

Now in its seventh season, FTC is poised to impact more students than ever, getting them excited about the engineering process, 21st century work skills, and STEM topics





LUTHER BANNER

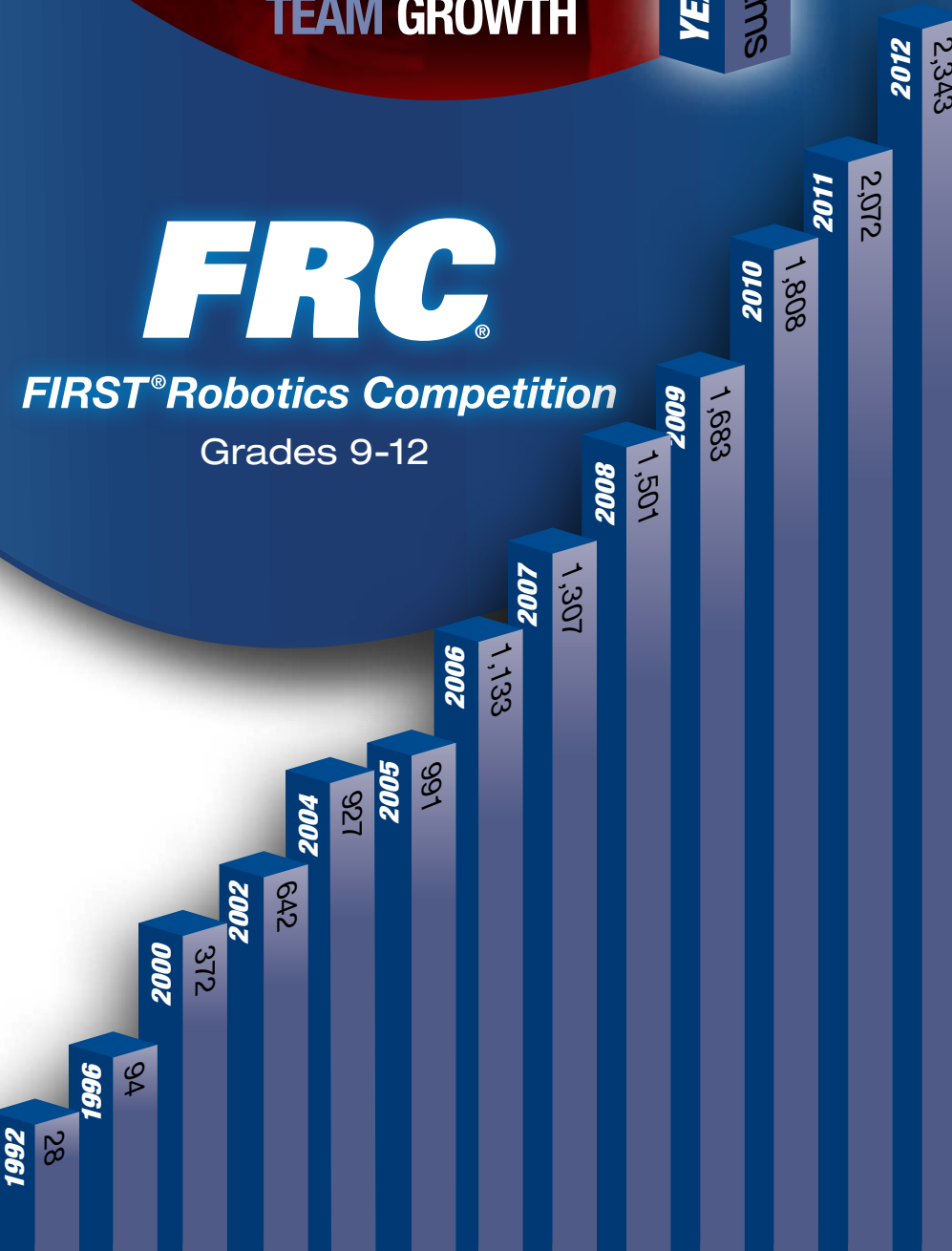


TEAM GROWTH

YEAR
Teams

FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition
Grades 9-12



Accomplishments »

59,000 high-school students on 2,343 teams from 12 countries; eligible for nearly \$15 million in college scholarships from 154 providers

Competitions »

69 Regional events and District Competitions; FRC Championship in St. Louis



The Challenge »

Three-team Alliances scored points by shooting basketballs through multi-level hoops during matches of two minutes and 15 seconds. Teams with robots balanced on bridges at match end were awarded bonus points.

INSPIRATION AT A GLANCE

Luther Banner

FRC Alumnus; Freshman, MIT

Read Luther's inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/luther-banner



Persuaded

by a female FRC Coach to join his St. Louis high school's team after a broken leg kept him from completing his freshman football season

Maintained

"A" average; cared for a family member with cancer; motivated classmates to attend science classes across town; co-captained his FRC team

Created

FLL mentoring program in his hometown; developed FLL teams at six middle schools; named to FIRST Dean's List

Sponsors

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

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.

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2012 WOODIE FLOWERS AWARD WINNER

Dr. Earl Scime

Physics Department,
West Virginia University;
FRC Team 2614 Mentor

Team 2614 Member

We came to be inspired.
We stay because he did.
We will become the inspiration.

So say the members of *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 2614, "MARS", from Morgantown, West Virginia. They are referring to their Mentor, Dr. Earl Scime, aka the "MARS Rock." They describe a man with unending encouragement, a focus on high quality programs, and a concentrated effort to firmly and thoroughly guide students along scientific and technical paths. Dr. Scime helps students realize that difficult problems can be solved with effort and organization. His team has applied this thinking not only to their robots, but also to their successful non-robotic endeavors.

While developing new and strong FRC teams, and many new *FIRST* LEGO League teams, Dr. Scime has succeeded in the major goal of *FIRST* — the "big I," inspiration. As a team leader, he has inspired students throughout West Virginia. The foundation that has been built with his guidance will undoubtedly result in great things for years to come.



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2012 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



2012 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

FIRST offers many educational opportunities. In 2012, all FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team members were eligible for over 741 scholarship opportunities, valued at \$15 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 page 22 are listed 154 FIRST Scholarship Providers, including 19 that are new this year.

Some FIRST scholarships are awarded for specific 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 under \$1,000 to full tuition (valued at \$160,000). Most are renewable annually if the student maintains the required academic average.

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Highlights

- ▶ 88% of Scholarship recipients majored in Engineering
- ▶ 40% of Scholarships can be used for any major
- ▶ 26% of Scholarships were offered to women
- ▶ Chances of FIRST participant winning a Scholarship: 1 in 3

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2012 FIRST FOUNDER'S AWARD



Megan Smith

Vice President of New Business Development

Each year, FIRST Founder

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

Presenting the 2012 Founder's Award to Google Inc. at the FIRST Championship, Kamen recognized the company for helping FIRST reach its strategic objectives to grow. Google sponsors 20 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams and funds eight FRC Regional events from Boston to Silicon Valley, along with FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST LEGO League events across California.

The FIRST Green e-watt saver LED bulb fundraising program — made possible by a generous grant from Google — helps teams across all FIRST programs raise funds while encouraging their communities to protect the environment.

The award was accepted by Vice President of New Business Development, Megan Smith. “One of the most exciting things we see at Google is that all of this technology is bringing the talent of the world together,” said Smith, who encouraged participants to share their incredible experience with other kids in their schools so they, too, will join a FIRST team.

Buy a bulb, light up a kid's future!



For more information visit www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/first-green-e-watt-saver



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YOUNG INVENTORS



The 2nd 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 food-safety projects.

First Place winners of the 2012 FLL Global Innovation Award:

FLL Team "Moderately Confused" of Dublin, Ohio

Invention:

Erasable Barcode to prevent the sale of meat stored at improper temperatures at grocery stores

FLL Team "S.I.S. Robotic Revolution" of Shelton, Conn.

Invention:

Smart Sticker to indicate whether or not food has been stored at the appropriate temperature

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 inaugural 2012 FIRST Future Innovator Award:

Ben Mattinson from FRC Team 2840 "Blue Tide" of Paradise Valley, Ariz.

Invention:

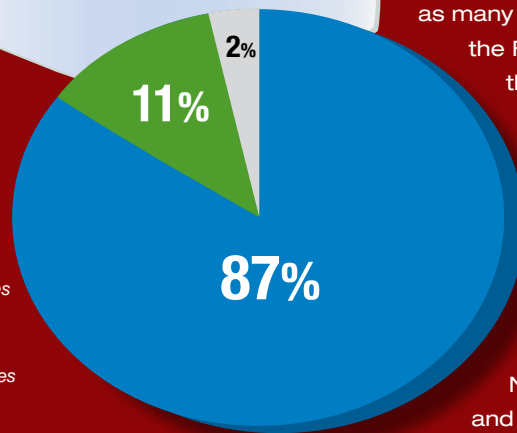
EyewriterB 2.1, an inexpensive system that allows a disabled user to control a computer using only the motion of his/her eyes



A list of FRC Team Sponsors is available online at www.usfirst.org/sponsors/first-robotics-competition-team-sponsors

Financials

Application of Funds



Significant program expansion was achieved in fiscal year 2011-2012 with balanced growth in revenues and expenses. Contributions remained strong, as many individuals, small businesses, corporations — including over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies — and foundations continued or increased their support and new Sponsors joined *FIRST*. This support provided meaningful experiences to more than 280,000 youth engaged in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs.

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



For the fourth consecutive year, *FIRST* achieved a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, certifying our commitment to accountability, transparency, and responsible fiscal management. This rating places *FIRST* in the top 7% of all charities evaluated by Charity Navigator.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	JUNE 30, 2012	JUNE 30, 2011
Revenues and other support:		
Program registration fees	\$ 16,746,773	\$ 14,074,525
Contributions and grants	19,529,408	15,615,389
Rental income, net of expenses	137,050	158,845
Other income	905,849	429,425
Special project, net of expenses	42,001	25,017
Net assets released from restrictions	13,099,941	11,007,189
Total revenues and other support	50,461,022	41,310,390
Expenses:		
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition (FRC)	34,754,397	29,310,219
<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (FLL) and Junior <i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (Jr.FLL)	4,786,963	3,989,305
<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge (FTC)	1,792,989	1,301,130
<i>FIRST</i> Place (FP)	100,947	110,022
General, administrative and fundraising	6,339,921	4,677,870
Operation of building	334,865	192,786
Depreciation	374,820	382,435
Total expenses	48,484,902	39,963,767
Operating surplus	1,976,120	1,346,623
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents*	13,194,985	\$10,937,861
Short-term investments*	8,475,693	6,559,528
Pledges, receivables, and other assets	7,747,006	8,183,290
Net property, plant, and equipment	3,663,438	3,579,012
Total assets, end of year	33,081,122	29,259,691
Liabilities and net assets:		
Total liabilities	4,389,434	4,015,048
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	16,523,793	14,547,673
Temporarily restricted	12,167,895	10,696,970
Total net assets, end of year	28,691,688	25,244,643
Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 33,081,122	\$ 29,259,691

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, 2012, is equivalent to approximately 4 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 available on the Web site at www.usfirst.org under "ABOUT US/Annual Report & Financials." Certain amounts reported for 2011 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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Championship photography by Adriana M. Groisman and Argenis Apolinario. Official White House photo, page 2. 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.”

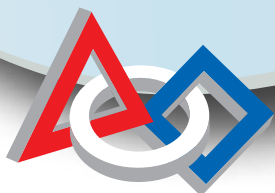
Dean Kamen, Founder

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

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.



FIRST

INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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