



FIRST

For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dean Kamen, Founder

John Abele, Chairman



FOUNDER

*Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder
President, DEKA Research
& Development Corporation*



CHAIRMAN

*John Abele, FIRST Chairman
Founder Chairman, Retired,
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FIRST Championship

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

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





The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) combines the excitement of sport with science and technology to create a unique varsity sport for the mind. FRC helps high-school students discover the rewards and excitement of education and careers in science and technology.

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



The *FIRST* Robotics Competition for high-school students remains the signature program for *FIRST*. In 2005, the number of participating FRC teams grew to more than 990 with approximately 25,000 students. The number of Regional competitions expanded to 30 in North America with new regional events in Las Vegas, NV, Rochester, NY, Waterloo, Ontario, and West Lafayette, IN. This season also marked the first FRC event held in Israel, where 12 teams participated in the *FIRST* experience. This season's game, "Triple Play," included several new challenges for the teams: a "three on three" team competition, a tetrahedron game piece, and a vision camera and associated electronics.

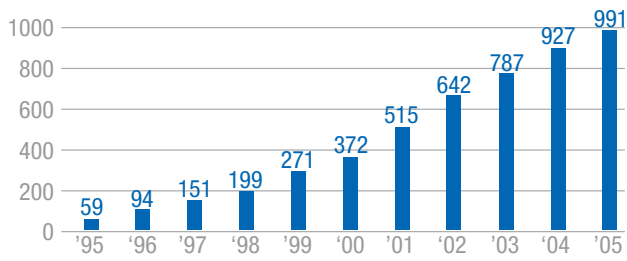
FRC continued to offer students opportunities for an exciting education and career path in science, engineering, and technology. Scholarship offerings for *FIRST* participants reached almost \$8 million and represented some of the finest engineering colleges and universities in the country.

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

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



FIRST Robotics Competition Team Growth



“...teams not only defined ways to make the environment easier for everyone to use, but also worked with communities to make the changes happen...”

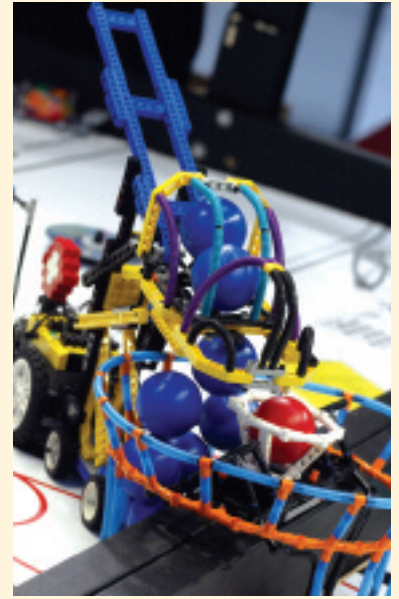


In the 2004/05 season, *FIRST* LEGO League continued to serve as a powerful and efficient driver of growth for *FIRST*. FLL grew to over 48,000 middle-school-aged students participating. Overall, 5,859 teams participated in more than 380 qualifying events and official tournaments in 23 countries around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

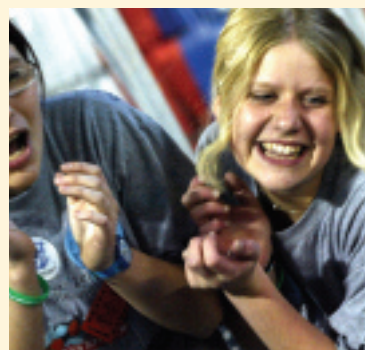
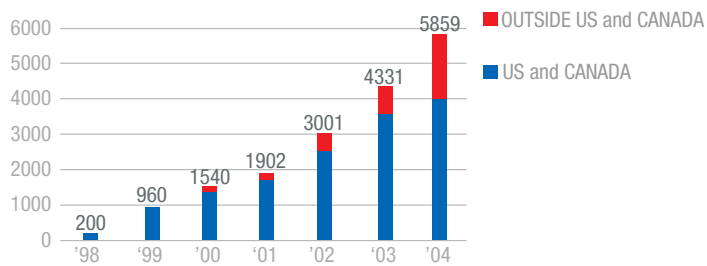
Through the 2004/05 “No Limits” Challenge, teams explored ways in which technology and creative thinking can combine to help people with physical disabilities meet the everyday challenges faced in simple tasks such as walking, reading a distant sign, or climbing stairs. In addition to the robot competition,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

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

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



FIRST LEGO League Team Growth





Updates

FIRST Vex™ Challenge

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

Junior FIRST LEGO League

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

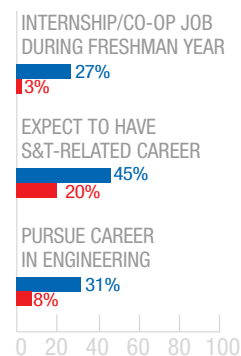
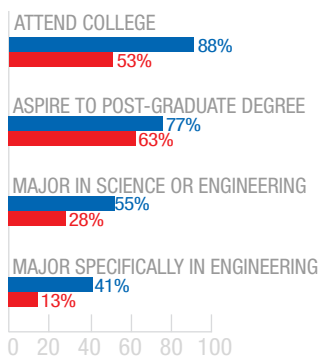
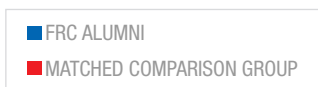
FIRST Impact: Brandeis University Evaluation

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

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

FIRST continues to measure its impact and explore ways to extend its reach and provide more young people the opportunity to discover the excitement and rewards of science, technology, and engineering.

IMPACT: FIRST Robotics Competition Evaluation



Junior FIRST LEGO League



FIRST Vex Challenge





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

IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS ACKNOWLEDGED ON THESE PAGES, *FIRST* EXTENDS ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO GENEROUSLY DEVOTE THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE, AND THE THOUSANDS OF SPONSORS OF *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION, *FIRST* LEGO® LEAGUE, AND *FIRST* VEX CHALLENGE TEAMS AND EVENTS. *FIRST* COULD NOT ACHIEVE THE POWERFUL IMPACT IT DOES WITHOUT THIS TREMENDOUS SUPPORT.

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Fairbanks, AK
Alaska Robotics Education Association

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General Motors Desert Proving Ground

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 Florissant Valley
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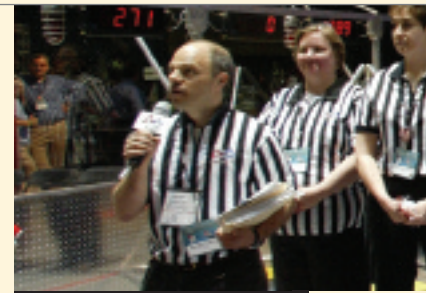
**New Hampshire Official
 Tournament**
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 BAE Systems

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Flanders, NJ
 Ethicon
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**New York City Official
 Tournament**
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 Con Edison
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FIRST Volunteer:

Benge Ambrogio
 FRC Chief Referee

Outstanding Volunteer

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



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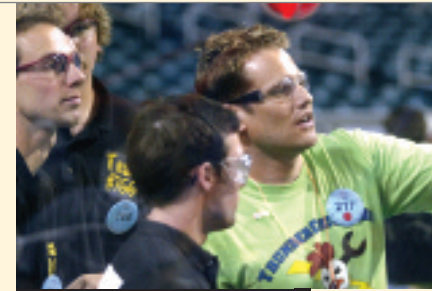
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Ford Motor Company Fund
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Metaldyne
Michigan Department of Labor
and Economic Growth



FIRST Mentor:

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

Woodie Flowers Award

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

A passion for young people

A passion for robots

*A major source of help to anyone
who asks*

Five years of dedicated, year-round service

A major FLL organizer

*A remote kickoff and FRC Regional
announcer*

A major off-season FRC organizer

*A robotics competition social event
organizer*

An FRC Regional master of ceremonies

*An Unsung Hero on Chief Delphi
Forums - three times*

Accused of "perpetual excitement"

*Involved in the details of making
machines work*

*Involved in the details of making
teams work*

*Involved in the details of making the
mission of FIRST work*



The New Detroit Science Center
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Greater Toronto Regional

Mississauga, ON, Canada
Argosy Foundation
Bell Canada
Jalynn Bennett
Boston Scientific Canada
CAE
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Queen's University
Ryerson University
Scotiabank
Society of Energy Professionals
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Hydro
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Engineering and Math

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WPI Design Innovation



FIRST Sponsor:

Autodesk®

For 14 years, Autodesk has been an outstanding supporter of FIRST. Every FRC Kit of Parts includes Autodesk 3D Design Software as well as 3D renderings of all kit parts to help speed the robot design process. As a result, students have the opportunity to work with the latest technology in designing their robots. The Autodesk Visualization Award recognizes excellence in creating animation and the Autodesk Inventor Award recognizes the team that best understands, documents, and communicates the distinct phases of the design process. In 2005, Autodesk significantly increased its support of FIRST, becoming a sponsor of the Pacific Northwest Regional and the Official Championship Sponsor of the FIRST Championship in Atlanta.



S P O N S O R S

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(Ten or more teams in 2005)

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



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 K and M Electronics
 Kansas Space Grant Consortium
 Kaz Inc.
 Kelly Aviation Center
 Ken-Tronics
 Kettering University
 KeySpan Energy
 KG Projections, Inc.
 Kikkoman Foods Inc.
 Kimberly-Clark
 Kinna Family
 Kitchell Contractors
 Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers
 Klingbeil Capital Management
 KML Technology Inc.
 Knoch Manufacturing Ltd.
 Koller-Craft Plastic Products
 Konica-Minolta
 KSU Industries
 K-T Corporation
 Kuka Development Labs
 L-3 Communications
 LA County Regional Occupational Program
 LaBelle Commercial Industrial Electrical Contractors
 Laboratory Robotics Interest Group (LRIG)
 Labsphere, Inc.
 Laker Energy Products Ltd.
 Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust
 Lampin Corp.
 Laron Incorporated
 Larsen & Shaw Ltd.
 Laughlin Racing

Lawrence Technological University
 La-Z-Boy
 LBJ-LASA Robotics Assoc.
 Lear Corporation
 Lear Romec-Crane Aerospace
 Legg Mason Funds
 The LEGO Group
 Lewis Marine
 Lewis Pumps
 Liebert
 LINEARContours Inc.
 Linn-Mar Foundation
 Livingston Tool & Mfg
 Loblaw Companies Ltd.
 Local 3, I.B.E.W.
 Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company
 Lockheed Martin Corporation
 Lockheed Martin Integrated Systems
 Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control
 Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
 Logan County Coal Vendors
 Long Beach City College
 Longwood University
 Los Angeles Trade Technical College
 Loucon Metal Ltd.
 LSI Logic
 Lutron Electronics Co. Inc.
 m80.net
 Mack Trucks, Inc.
 MackTool & Engineering
 Macro Industries
 MAG
 Magna-Donnelly
 Magnecomp Corporation
 Manhattan College
 Mansfield Electric
 Manufacturers Round Table
 Marcus & Millichap - Los Angeles
 Marine Dynamics
 Marinette Marine Corp.
 Marotta Scientific Controls, Inc.
 Marshall Brain's How Stuff Works
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 MCI
 Thomas E. & Paula Gabriele McInerney
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 McMullen Foundation
 McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals
 McNeil Consumer Health
 MCS Foundation
 MD Robotics
 MEA Consulting Engineers
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 MEI
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FRC Chairman's Award:

Team 67, "The HOT Team" of Huron Valley Schools from Milford, MI won the prestigious FIRST Robotics Competition Championship Chairman's Award for 2005, which recognizes the team that best represents a model for other teams and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.



FLL Director's Award:

Team 9, "Boys & Girls Clubs of America," won the 2005 FIRST LEGO League World Festival Directors Award. The Director's Award, FLL's highest honor, recognizes the team that best inspires and motivates others about the excitement and wonders of science and technology while demonstrating gracious professionalism.



S P O N S O R S

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

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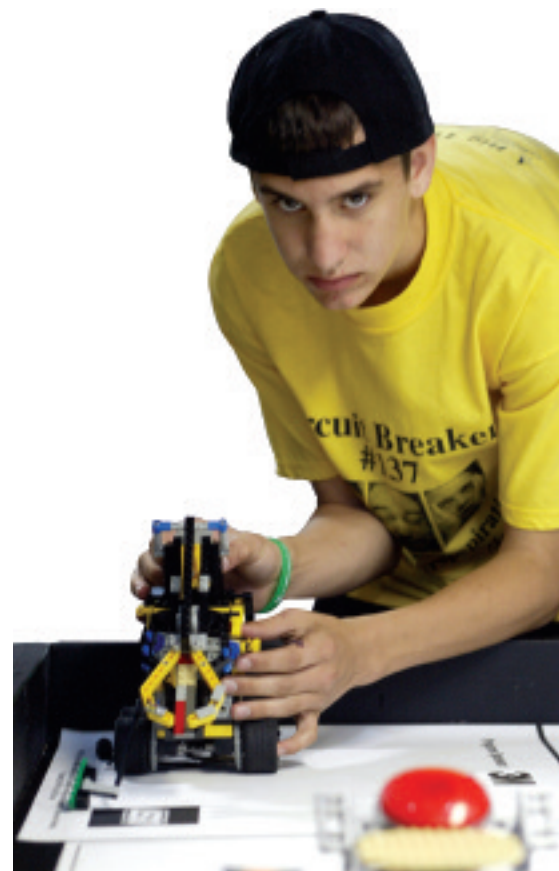
Norwich University, David Crawford School of Engineering
 NTMA
 Nucor Steel
 Numatics Engineering
 NW Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5
 Nypro Inc.
 O P G Lambton Generating Station
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 Plasti-Coat, Inc.
 Platt Tech Parent Faculty Organization
 Plexus Technology Group
 Plumbers Union Local 1
 Polytechnic University
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 Port of Egypt Marine
 Port Plastics
 Potomac DS
 Powell Electrical Manufacturing
 Power Workers Union
 Prarie View
 Pratt & Whitney
 Precision Stone, Inc.
 Precision Tool & Die
 Preuss Foundation Inc.
 Price Engineering
 Procter & Gamble
 Professional Engineers Ontario - North Toronto Chapter
 Proportion Air Corporation
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 Qwest
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 Ramdy Corporation
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 RPCarbone
 RSR Corporation
 Rugby Eagles Aerie #3834
 Rugby Manufacturing
 Rugby Welding & Machine
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 Sandersville Technical College
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 Savannah Technical College
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 School District of Philadelphia
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 SD State University, Engineering Department
 Seagate Technology
 Sealed Air Cryovac
 Search Plus International
 SeaTow Services International
 Seattle Robotics Society
 Sector Electronics
 Seemann Composites
 SENAI-RS
 Seneca College
 Shaffer's Welding Shop
 SHAN Precision
 Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 28
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 Shell Chemical
 Shell International Exploration
 W. A. Sherman
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 Shiu Pong Group of Companies
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 ShowBest, Inc.
 SIAC
 Siemens
 Siemens Airfield Systems
 Siemens Building Technologies
 Siemens Dematics
 Siemens Energy & Automation
 Siemens Logistics & Assembly
 Siemens Network Convergence LLC
 Siemens VDO
 Siemens VDO Automotive
 Siemens VDO Automotive Electronics

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 Siemon Co.
 Sifto Canada Inc.
 Sikorsky Aircraft
 Six Flags Mexico
 SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers)
 Smithtown Rotary Club
 Society for Biomolecular Screening
 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
 Society of Mexican American Engineers & Scientists
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 Solid Edge
 Sonny's Enterprises Inc.-The Car Wash Factory
 Sony Corporation
 South Carolina State Department of Education
 Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
 Southern California Gas Co.
 Southern University
 Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College
 Southold IGA
 Southold Kiwanis
 Southwire
 Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego
 Spartan Light Metal
 SPAWAR
 Specialty Minerals
 Specialty's Our Name
 SPECO Tile & Marble, Inc.
 Spen-Tech Machine Engineering Corp.
 SportsPrint
 Springs Industries
 Spur J Estates
 SRI International
 SRS Moxie
 SRT
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 Stafford County Industrial Development Authority
 Staggerwing Museum
 Standard Aero
 Sta-Rite Inc.
 State Council of Higher Education of Virginia
 State Electric
 Steamfitters Workers Union Local 638
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 Stoland Heat & Air
 Stony Brook University
 Storage Tek
 Stress Engineering Services, Inc.
 Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association
 Stuyvesant High School Parents Association
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 United Water
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 University of Detroit Mercy
 University of Massachusetts, Lowell
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 Urschel Labs
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 UTC Otis Service Center
 UTC Pratt & Whitney
 UTC Sikorsky
 UTC-UTRC
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 Valley Apparel
 Valtec Hydraulics Inc.
 Vanguard ID Systems
 Sperry Van Ness
 Velocity Micro
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 Verizon Corporation
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 Verizon Foundation
 Verizon Wireless
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 Virginia Business Education Partnership
 Virginia Ground Water
 Virginia Piedmont Technology Council
 Virginia Tech
 Visteon Automotive Systems
 Visteon Corporation
 Visteon - Glass Division
 Volckening
 Volvo Motor Graders
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 Waialua Federal Credit Union
 Wallace Foundation
 Walt Disney
 Walt Disney Imagineering
 Walt Disney World
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 WaterJet Cutting of Indiana
 Watertown Rotary
 Waukesha County Technical College
 Wayne County Community College Eastern Campus
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 Western Michigan University
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 Zanella Maquinas
 Zeeland Lumber Company
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 Zimco Inc.



FINANCIALS

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

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

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30	
	2005	2004
<i>Assets</i>		
Cash and equivalents	\$4,894,462	\$3,380,640
Investments	0	591,610
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$27,000 in 2005 and \$18,314 in 2004)	367,213	134,749
Federal grants receivable	655,095	1,699,100
Property, plant and equipment (PP&E):	6,562,731	6,010,967
Less accumulated depreciation	2,175,666	1,857,093
Net PP&E	4,387,065	4,153,874
Prepaid expenses and other assets	158,107	140,672
Total assets	\$10,461,942	\$10,100,645
<i>Liabilities and net assets</i>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$589,665	\$297,381
Deferred revenue and other credits	37,400	50,225
Refundable advances	2,560,800	2,701,000
Total liabilities	3,187,865	3,048,606
<i>Net assets:</i>		
Unrestricted	5,902,221	5,044,766
Temporarily restricted	1,371,856	2,007,273
	7,274,077	7,052,039
Total liabilities and net assets	\$10,461,942	\$10,100,645

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	Year ended June 30	
	2005	2004
<i>Revenues and other support:</i>		
Program registration fees	\$9,837,085	\$7,676,348
Contributions	5,282,335	5,226,492
Rental income	558,764	552,699
Event package revenue – Championship	0	133,293
Other income	415,889	304,725
Net assets released from restrictions	1,602,310	525,692
Special sponsorship	500,000	0
Total revenues and other support	18,196,383	14,419,249
<i>Operating expenses:</i>		
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition	13,176,451	10,837,289
<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League	1,124,943	708,199
<i>FIRST</i> Vex Challenge	323,257	0
<i>FIRST</i> Place	47,264	68,308
Event package expenses – Championship	0	133,293
Management and general	2,411,966	1,989,827
Operation of building	316,375	320,755
Depreciation	318,570	261,239
Total operating expenses	17,718,826	14,318,910
Operating income	477,557	100,339
<i>Non-operating gains:</i>		
Refundable advances - amortization	140,200	140,200
Excess of revenues over expenses	617,757	240,539
Net assets released from restriction for purchase of property, plant and equipment	239,698	0
Increase in unrestricted net assets	857,455	240,539

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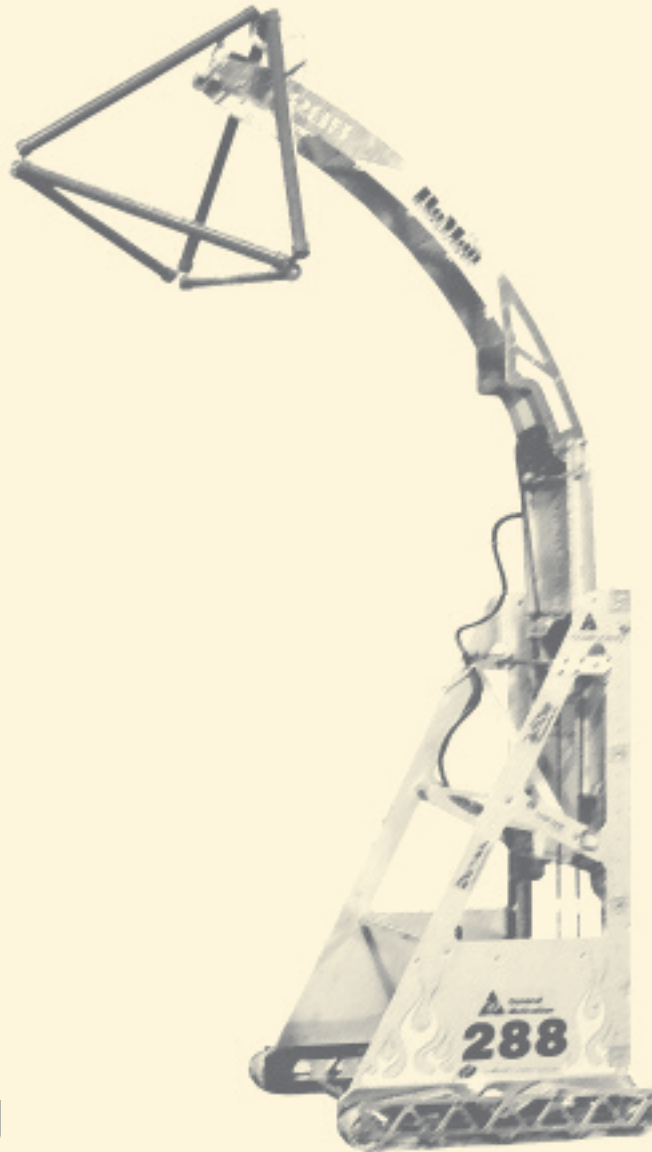
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