

# Making it **LOUD**



*2011 Annual Report*



FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

[WWW.USFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.USFIRST.ORG)

will.i.am

For over 20 years, **FIRST**® Founder Dean Kamen and everyone associated with *FIRST* have been on a mission to spread the word about the many educational, societal, economical, and planetary benefits of getting youth and adults alike involved in the *FIRST* experience. Despite not having access to the millions of marketing dollars required to make *FIRST* a household “brand,” the program has continued to grow each year at a blistering pace.

**In 2011, however, thanks to the fervent interest of major figures in government, the media, and mainstream entertainment, the “volume” of voices promoting FIRST...**

# ...GOT TURNED UP LOUD...VERY LOUD!

## MAKING IT LOUDER

In January, 2011, a timely phone call to Dean Kamen by music mogul, tech entrepreneur, and The Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am kicked off an amazing season-long collaboration of unusual bedfellows, culminating in a national television special on the ABC Network in August dedicated to promoting science and *FIRST* (“i.am *FIRST*® – Science is Rock and Roll”). will.i.am pledged his continuing support to the program in an effort to “turn science and engineering up loud.” The entertainer delivered with a full-tilt The Black Eyed Peas concert for attendees of the *FIRST* Championship in St. Louis, which was filmed for the TV special and featured appearances by a long list of celebrities — Jack Black, Steven Tyler, Bono, Justin Bieber, Britney Spears, and many more. President Obama even had a cameo!

## ...AND LOUDER

In May, CNN’s Soledad O’Brien produced and hosted a well-received documentary on American education (“Don’t Fail Me: Education in America”) which followed three *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC®) teams as they worked through the year’s challenge, LOGO MOTION™. For millions of viewers, it was an eye-opening introduction to the world of *FIRST* and its importance in our collective future.

President Barack Obama, along with White House Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, continued to feature *FIRST* teams as perfect examples of the president’s national White House Science Fair initiative promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and celebrating science and math achievement in American schools.

## ...AND LOUDER

Books, magazines, newspapers, cable TV, and the Web helped us create noise, too, with ongoing national coverage by *Bloomberg*, *CNN*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Popular Science*, *Wired*, *ESPN Magazine*, *WallStreetJournal.com*, and more. Author Neal Bascomb brought the *FIRST* experience to life in his inspiring book, *The New Cool*. Time Warner Cable incorporated *FIRST* into its national “Connect A Million Minds™” initiative, featuring our FRC program in its TV show “It Ain’t Rocket Science.”

The clamor of *FIRST* recognition continues to grow louder every day. The continuing mainstream exposure is helping propel us toward our goal of making *FIRST* known and recognized around the globe. Will your company, your circle of influence, your personal voice be the next to join the chorus?

Dean Kamen  
Morgan Freeman  
Soledad O’Brien

Willow Smith

Barack Obama



**Ryan Hart** FIRST put me on the path to engineering and has allowed me to gain first hand experience doing something that is both fun and rewarding. There is nothing like the feeling of watching the robot that you built go out on the field and win!

Like · Comment · Share · 3 hours ago

4 people like this

# FIRST<sup>®</sup> PROGRAMS



**FIRST** learning never stops building upon itself, starting at age 6 and continuing through middle and high-school levels up to age 18. Young people can participate at any level. Participants master skills and concepts to aid in learning science and technology through innovative projects and robotics competitions, while gaining valuable career and life skills.

Gracious Professionalism™  
Coopertition™  
Sport for the Mind™

**FRC**  
FIRST<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition  
Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

**FTC**  
FIRST<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge  
Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

**FLL**  
FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League  
Grades 4-8 (ages 9-16)  
ages 9-14 in the U.S./CAN/MEX

**Jr.FLL**  
Junior FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League  
Grades K-3 (ages 6-9)

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

**FTC** teams develop strategy, build robots using a reusable, modular kit of parts, and compete head to head. Students learn to think like engineers.

**FLL** teams build LEGO<sup>®</sup>-based robots and develop research projects based on a real-world Challenge that changes annually. Their activities are guided by FLL Core Values.

**Jr.FLL** teams design and construct a model with moving parts using LEGO<sup>®</sup> elements and present their research journey on a “Show-Me” poster.

## High-school students get to:

- Work alongside professional engineers
- Learn and use sophisticated hardware and software
- Develop design, project management, programming, teamwork, and strategic-thinking skills
- Qualify for millions of dollars in scholarships

## High-school students get to:

- Design, prototype, test, and compete using real-world practices (e.g. Engineering Notebooks, CAD software, and rapid prototyping)
- Get hands-on programming and rapid-prototyping experience
- Develop strategic-thinking, problem-solving, organizational, and team-building skills
- Qualify for millions of dollars in scholarships

## Children ages 9 to 16 (9 to 14 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico) get to:

- Strategize, design, build, program, and test an autonomous robot using LEGO<sup>®</sup> MINDSTORMS<sup>®</sup> technology
- Create innovative solutions to challenges facing today’s scientists
- Develop career and life skills including critical thinking, time management, and teamwork
- Become involved in their local and global community

## Children ages 6 to 9 get to:

- Explore challenges facing today’s scientists
- Discover real-world math and science
- Engage in team activities guided by Jr.FLL Core Values
- Build self-confidence and life skills

## FIRST Facts 2011

Youth participants .....	248,000+ (ages 6-18)
Mentors, Coaches, Volunteers, and adult supporters .....	90,000+
Number of hours donated by Volunteers .....	6,933,746
U.S. states participating .....	50
Countries participating .....	60+
Scholarships available .....	Close to \$15 million in scholarships from nearly 150 Scholarship Providers
Sponsors .....	3,500+
FIRST <sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition donated parts .....	459,030
Number of robots constructed .....	20,440+
Growth of FIRST participation (over 2010).....	17%
Participants who have a meaningful learning experience .....	100%

## FIRST participants are many times more likely to:

- Attend college
- Major and pursue careers in science or engineering
- Volunteer in their communities
- Secure internships
- Mentor students
- Become outstanding citizens

## In college, FIRST participants 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





Dean Kamen

Walter P. Havenstein



**President Obama** *Introducing ABC special about FIRST*

“If our kids study hard in math and science, then their futures are going to be bright, and so is America’s. Now, may the best robot win ...”

Every year, at the Championship and at *FIRST* events across the country and globally, we give *FIRST* participants the same challenge... “homework,” if you will. **GO OUT AND MAKE FIRST LOUD!** Talk about it with everyone you know. Shout about it at every opportunity. Let everyone you can know what a life-altering, game-changing, planet-awakening social and educational experience *FIRST* is. But despite constantly earning A’s on this assignment, and experiencing consistent yearly growth, *FIRST* has continued to operate under the radar of the general public.

This year, however, we hit the jackpot. We couldn’t be more excited about the national and international attention *FIRST* has received from luminaries in government, the media, publishing, and the diverse world of popular entertainment. All of a sudden, it seems that *FIRST* has become, to borrow from author Neal Bascomb’s recent book title, the “new cool.” The national call for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in our schools is reaching a crescendo and *FIRST* is helping lead the chorus. Of course, those of us involved in our organization have believed this for decades. It just took a little time for the rest of the country to catch up!

We are extremely grateful to an endless list of people from many fields who have embraced *FIRST* and lent their influence, time, and resources to help us pump up the excitement. For their passion and leadership, we recognize *President Barack Obama, White House Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, entertainment mogul will.i.am and The Black Eyed Peas, CNN’s Soledad O’Brien, Time Warner Cable’s NY1, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman,* and countless others whose names you will see in this document. To all those who have shared their brilliance and vision with us, we thank you. And to the tens of thousands of Volunteers, Mentors, Coaches, teachers, parents, friends, and fans who make *FIRST* run and help it continue to grow, you have our sincere and humble gratitude. None of this would happen without you. You continue to inspire us all!

The world’s educational, political, and business leaders have once again been reminded that the future belongs to the innovators: the young men and women now involved in the *FIRST* progression of programs. The U.S., in turn, must push harder for STEM education in our schools. This year, we recommit ourselves to work for the day when *FIRST* programs are available to everyone who dreams of developing the next generation of technological wonders.

Dean Kamen, *FIRST* Founder

Walter P. Havenstein, *FIRST* Chairman



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Jon Dudas



by FIRSTweets  
**Oprah** Oprah @will.i.am u r a bonafide genius. I saw clips of the show. GENIUS idea. My only regret is it's not on Oprah Winfrey Network.

During my seven years at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, I was exposed to the tremendous impact *FIRST* has on lives, young and old, and how it directly affects our future. After my first full year working with so many dedicated, inspiring people inside and outside of this dynamic organization, I continue to be amazed at how many of our participants move on through our four programs to become the next generation of forward-thinking inventors, community leaders, motivated employees, and model citizens. That so many of those same students return to help us prepare the next generations of science and technology heroes is also inspiring.

Working tirelessly together this year, thousands of people from all walks of life joined forces to make *FIRST* “louder.” As a result, we also helped make *FIRST* “bigger,” with a quarter million young people aged 6-18 taking part in our four *FIRST* robotics programs, an overall 17 percent increase over 2010. Of course, supporting and guiding all these motivated kids are more than 90,000 Volunteers — Mentors, Coaches, tournament organizers, fundraisers, Sponsors, emcees, drivers, and a myriad of other jobs. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for seeing the potential of *FIRST* and diving in to help make it all happen. Our hats are off to you once again.

In our 20th Season of the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC®), we continued to grow at record rates, with 2,072 teams participating in 59 events. But we will not be satisfied until we inspire young people in every school in the U.S. to become science and technology leaders. Our success is also measured by the much larger percentage of *FIRST* participants going to college and majoring in technology, engineering, and the sciences.

2011 was a banner year for many parts of the *FIRST* organization. Not only did CNN and ABC air specials on *FIRST*, but it was the inaugural year for a new contest in our *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) program, the Global Innovation Award. FLL also saw growth across the globe with more than 167,000 9-16 year-olds (9-14 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico) researching the human body in the “Body Forward” Challenge. Junior *FIRST*® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) enjoyed growth to over 12,000 6-9 year-olds on 2,147 teams from five countries, participating in more than 80 events. Our *FIRST*® Tech Challenge (FTC®) game, “GET OVER IT!™,” brought more than 16,000 high-school participants to 101 Qualifying and Championship Tournaments, and we piloted the program in India and China. Our college scholarships reached nearly \$15 million from nearly 150 colleges, universities, and companies in the U.S. and Canada. We introduced our first “team sustainability program” — selling the *FIRST* Green e-watt saver LED bulb — with teams raising more than half a million dollars. However, the most impactful findings come from our own students. They are our ambassadors, telling the story of *FIRST* as they build their robots, work at major corporations and in government, attend college, and help the next generation of technology leaders and innovators as *FIRST* Mentors and Volunteers.

There are thousands of ways our community helps “make *FIRST* loud,” creating stories of inspiration, innovation, and contributions of time, talent, and resources to develop the science and technology leaders we need in our future. If “louder” translates into “bigger,” then join me this coming year to continue to turn the volume up. We need to engage more of our youth than ever before. Our collective futures depend on it — in our universities, our corporations, our governments, and our communities. The momentum we’ve gained in 2011 is solid ground for strong growth in 2012 and beyond. Thank you for your passion and all you have done to date. If you are ready, we have a much bigger and even more rewarding job to accomplish.

  
 Jon Dudas, *FIRST* President





# Jr.FLL®

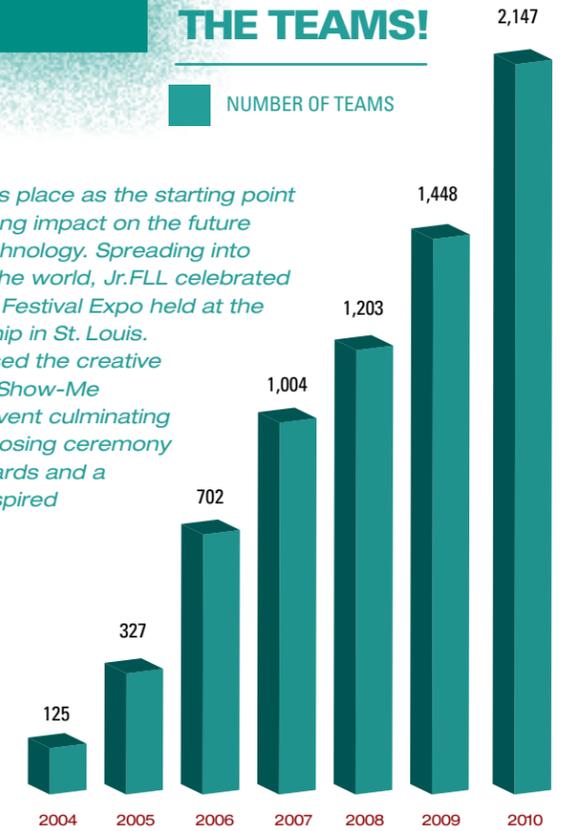
Junior FIRST® LEGO® League



## TURNING UP THE TEAMS!

NUMBER OF TEAMS

*Jr.FLL has found its place as the starting point for making a life-long impact on the future of science and technology. Spreading into countries around the world, Jr.FLL celebrated its first ever World Festival Expo held at the FIRST Championship in St. Louis. Reviewers witnessed the creative team Models and Show-Me Posters with the event culminating in a motivational closing ceremony complete with awards and a message by an inspired youth Mentor.*



**Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®)** continued to see double digit growth with more than 2,100 teams participating in the 2010/2011 Body Forward® Challenge. Jr.FLL captures young children's inherent curiosity and directs it toward discovering the wonders of science and technology. Jr.FLL features a real-world Challenge, which teams solve through research, critical thinking, and imagination. Guided by adult Coaches and the Jr.FLL Core Values, students work with LEGO elements and moving parts to build ideas and concepts and present them for review. During the Body Forward season, children aged 6 to 9 researched the human body and what might go wrong with it. Teams discovered how Biomedical Engineering helps people get and stay healthy.



## NEW JERSEY TEAM "MAKES IT LOUD" FOR YOUNGER FIRST TEAMS

*FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®) Team 4220, the "Landroids," is one the most enthusiastic, unofficial supporters of all things FIRST, especially when it comes to inspiring young kids to join the FIRST progression of programs. The all-boy team connected with industry experts to help expand the reach of Junior FIRST LEGO League (Jr.FLL) teams across their state. In 2010, they hosted their annual Jr.FLL Expo, the largest outdoor, carnival-style Jr.FLL Expo in the nation, with 16 New Jersey Jr.FLL teams, plus dozens of Volunteers. As part of the event, the Landroids invited robotics surgeons from Livingston's St. Barnabas Medical Center to be the Reviewers, which dovetailed off of the Jr.FLL 2010 Body Forward Challenge.*

### THE LANDROIDS

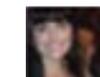
## PROFILE

broadened from being an FLL team to organizing an FTC team, and inspired the formation of several new teams. Eventually, they formed their own organization, the Livingston Robotics Club, hosting elaborate summer workshops and lengthy in-person presentations. The team's community efforts have since expanded into a state-wide outreach.

"Beyond building robots, we should leverage the innovation, inspiration, and interconnection that FIRST has brought to us," said Landroids' Coach Pearl Hwang.

When asked about the team's success and extraordinary level of commitment, *FIRST* New Jersey Regional Director Don Bowers said, "The Landroids have incorporated continued renewal into their game — first they renew themselves by progressing through *FIRST* challenges, second by giving back to the community, and finally by competing in national robotics competitions that build upon the skills they've learned from *FIRST*."



 **Tanya Cisneros-Conreux** We are in process of forming a group for Jr.FLL and so excited to get my son involved in this amazing program at such a young age!

Like · Comment · Share • August 9 at 11:25 am

 1 person likes this

 **Valerie Mortensen**  
19 hours ago

I've been a Jr.FLL coach for 3 years now and the program is in such high demand!! It's a very unique after school offering and it is exciting helping the kids learn how to work together in teams so by the end of our season... they are proud of their accomplishments using LEGO!

Like · Comment · Share

 1 person likes this

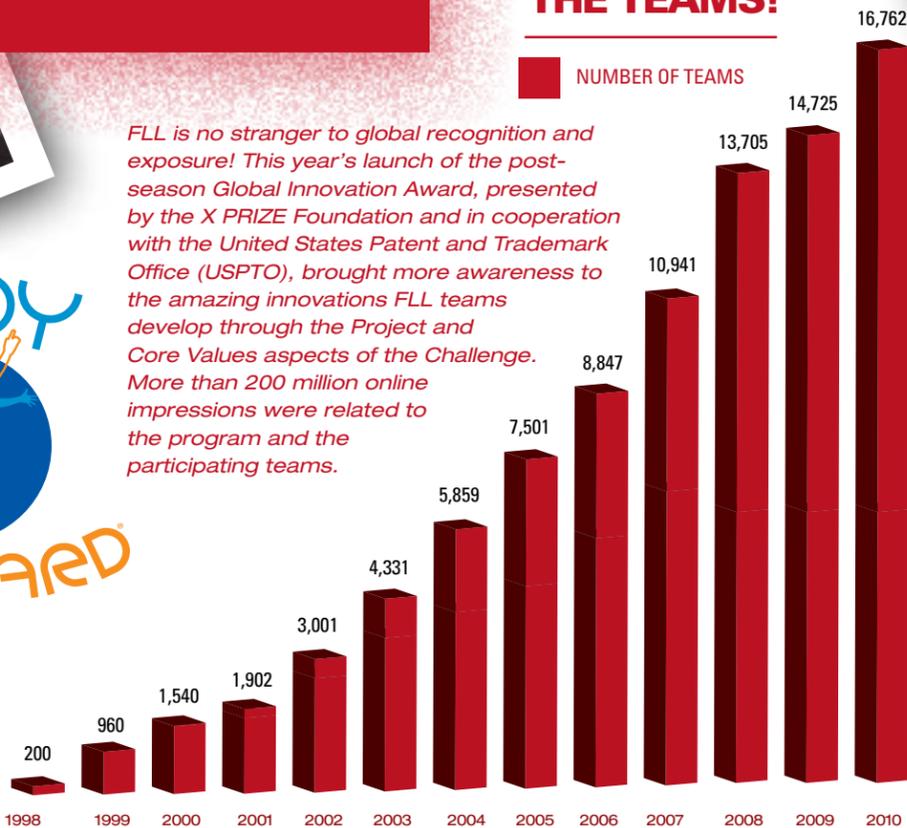


# FLL®

FIRST® LEGO® League

## TURNING UP THE TEAMS!

*FLL is no stranger to global recognition and exposure! This year's launch of the post-season Global Innovation Award, presented by the X PRIZE Foundation and in cooperation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), brought more awareness to the amazing innovations FLL teams develop through the Project and Core Values aspects of the Challenge. More than 200 million online impressions were related to the program and the participating teams.*



**FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®)**, in its 12th season, had a total of 16,720 teams of 9 to 16-year-old children (9 to 14 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico) from more than 60 countries, tasked with solving a real-world problem in the field of biomedical engineering. A set of Core Values, which serves as the over-arching way FLL teams go about learning, sharing, and working as a team, guided teams as they participated in programming a custom-made, autonomous robot to perform theme-related missions using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology. Through the Body Forward® Challenge, teams discovered what could go wrong with the human body and presented their innovative solutions to panels of judges.

The 2010/2011 season included more than 540 qualifying events and 100 Championship Tournaments. This year, two Open Championships were held, and 84 teams gathered at the World Festival in St. Louis to celebrate the season. The Global Innovation Award, in its inaugural year, provided an extension to the FLL season through an online competition designed to help teams learn about intellectual property.



## "THE FLYING MONKEYS" LEAD A HAND TO "MAKE IT LOUD"

For a Georgia 3-year old, the chance to hold a pencil and draw for the first time is now a reality, thanks to the creative efforts of FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team, "The Flying Monkeys," and the FLL Global Innovation Award — an inaugural competition sponsored by the X PRIZE Foundation in collaboration with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

### THE FLYING MONKEYS

## PROFILE

As part of the FLL Global Innovation Award competition, this year's FLL teams were asked to offer a solution to a critical, real-world problem in the field of biomedical engineering. The competition tasked teams in more than 56 countries to submit ideas developed for the 2011 FLL Challenge, Body Forward.

First Prize went to The Flying Monkeys, a Girl Scout FLL team from Ames, Iowa that more than met the challenge with BOB-1, their multi-functional prosthetic hand device, which will help people with limb abnormalities hold, grip, and

secure items. Their invention — made of moldable plastic, a pencil grip, and Velcro — was inspired by Danielle Fairchild, the Duluth, Georgia toddler who was born without fingers on her dominant hand. As part of their research, the team members met with a prosthetics manufacturer, an occupational therapist, and people with limb differences, and then designed the easy-to-use and cost-effective prototype.

In addition to the tremendous satisfaction of helping the Georgia toddler — as well as the potential to help many others like her in the future — The Flying Monkeys also received \$20,000 from the X PRIZE Foundation, which will be applied to cover costs associated with the patenting process.

The awards ceremony, held in Alexandria, Virginia this past June, also acknowledged a number of patent-pending inventions developed by other FLL teams, recognizing their creativity, compassion, and innovation. Winners were selected from more than 170 submissions from 15 countries. The entries were voted on by the public and then judged by an expert panel to determine the most patentable ideas.



by FIRSTtweets

**mariestrougter:** Marie My son's been involved w/ @FirstLegoLeague since he was 6 (now 13). Has been best educational investment #gifted #homeschool 3 April



**Sue Mueller Hoyt**

Yesterday at 4:34pm

Being part of the FIRST experience is life changing. My son was a FIRST LEGO League participant and then coach. he received a 12,000 dollar scholarship to college because of it.

Like · Comment · Share

4 people like this



# FTC

FIRST® Tech Challenge

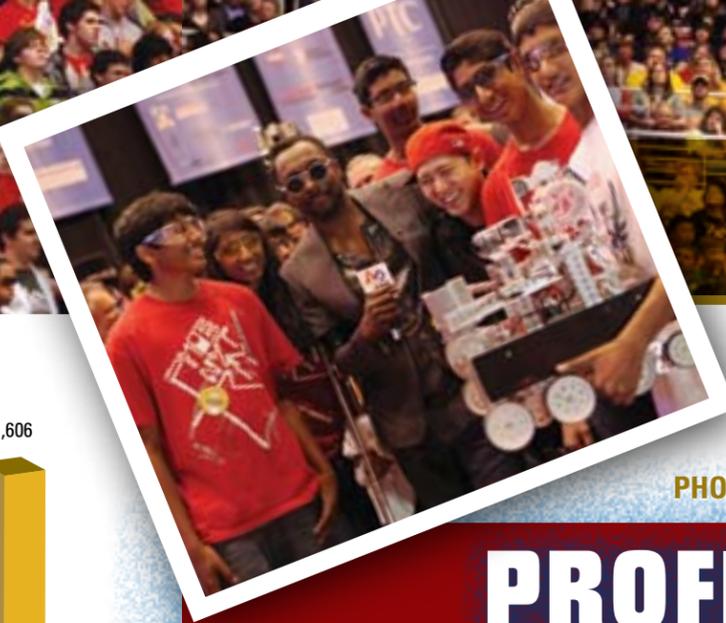
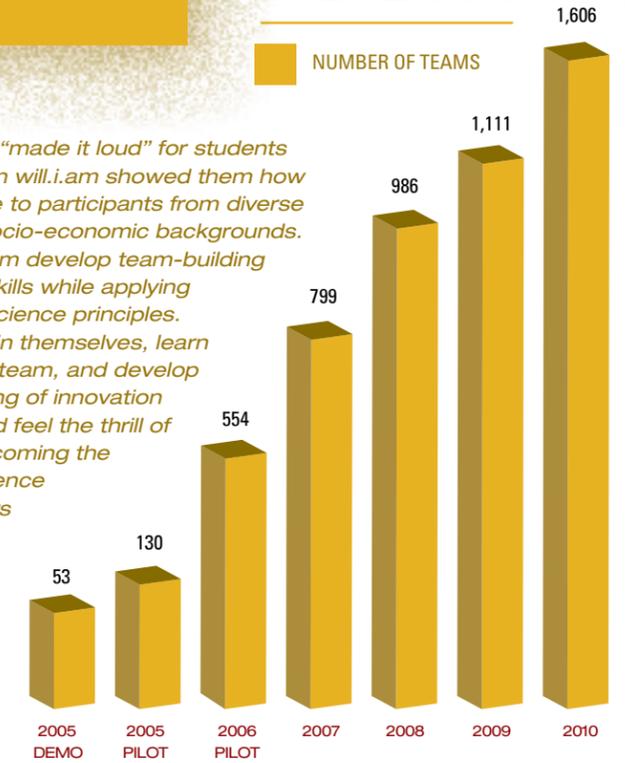


**FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®)** experienced an unprecedented 45 percent growth in teams in the 2010/2011 season. There were more than 16,000 high-school students on 1,606 teams, in five countries, competing in 101 Qualifying and Championship Tournaments and one World Championship Tournament. One hundred twenty-eight teams earned the right to compete in the FTC World Championship in St. Louis. will.i.am, frontman for The Black Eyed Peas, chose to feature FTC Team 3509, “Phoenixtrix,” in the “i.am FIRST – Science is Rock and Roll” television special on the ABC Network. In the FTC “GET OVER IT!” game, teams of up to 10 students used a combination of sensors, including infrared tracking (IR), line following, magnet seeking, and ultrasonic touch, to program their robots to operate in both autonomous and driver-controlled modes. Robots executed both offensive and defensive strategies to score batons into stationary and rolling goals. Guided by adult Mentors, FTC teams designed, built, and competed in an Alliance format and used a modular robotics platform, applying real-world math and science concepts.



## TURNING UP THE TEAMS!

*FIRST Tech Challenge “made it loud” for students around the world when will.i.am showed them how accessible FTC can be to participants from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. Students in the program develop team-building and problem solving skills while applying real-world math and science principles. They gain confidence in themselves, learn to work together as a team, and develop a greater understanding of innovation and engineering — and feel the thrill of success. They are becoming the next generation of science and technology leaders who are not only making FTC “loud,” but also fun.*



## FTC MAKES IT LOUD AND “DIRTY”

When The Black Eyed Peas’ frontman will.i.am needed to build a robot for his groundbreaking appearance at the 2011 FIRST Championship, he turned to FIRST Tech Challenge and Team 3509, “Phoenixtrix,” of Folsom, California.

### PHOENXTRIX

## PROFILE

In addition to building and qualifying their own robot for the FTC World Championship, Phoenixtrix also acted as the design and build team for will.i.am’s robot. With guidance from Ken Johnson, FTC Director, the project was kept under wraps until its debut at the World Championship in April.

A highlight of the World Championship event was the FTC Celebrity Match featuring FIRST Founder Dean Kamen with Team 2859, “Team Tiki,” from McLean, Virginia; FIRST President Jon Dudas with FTC Team 311, “the Fem Bots,” from

Williamston, South Carolina; and will.i.am’s “Dirty Bot.” Under intense media scrutiny and tough competition, “Dirty Bot” emerged as the winning FTC Celebrity Alliance.

The spotlight on FTC and Phoenixtrix didn’t end there. “Dirty Bot” was the focus of numerous national interviews and stories promoting FTC. The robot logged thousands of travel miles promoting FIRST, including making an appearance on “Piers Morgan Tonight,” and will.i.am’s FTC experience became the key storyline in “i.am FIRST – Science is Rock and Roll.” The ABC Network special celebrated the 20th annual FIRST Championship and also featured live performances by The Black Eyed Peas and Willow Smith.

“Dirty Bot” is now de-commissioned and still proudly belongs to will.i.am.



**Sravan Suryadevara** FTC is pretty awesome, mentoring a team right now and the small group dynamic is terrific. Allows you to work with the whole team, but at the same time part of a team.

Like · Comment · Share • 20 hours ago

1 person likes this



**Michael McKellar**  
19 hours ago

In four short years of FIRST I’ve watched my twin son & daughter become competent programmers, engineers, researchers, team members, presenters, and mentors. They blow me away with how much they know at their young age. Wow, what an advantage.

Like · Comment · Share

2 people like this

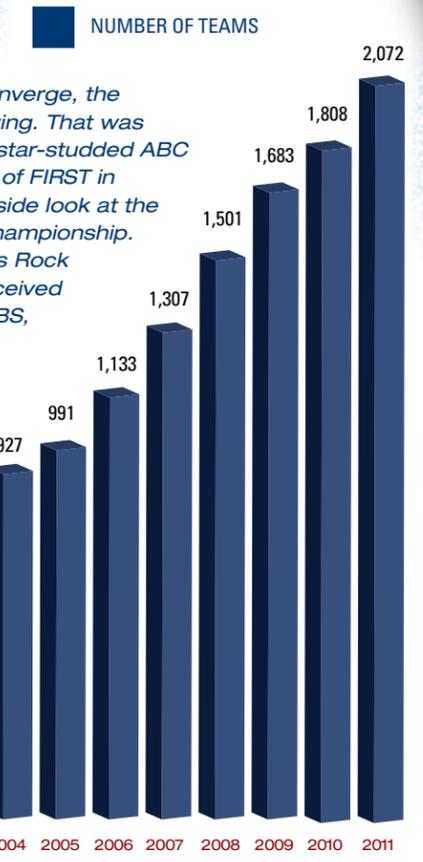


# 20<sup>th</sup> season FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition



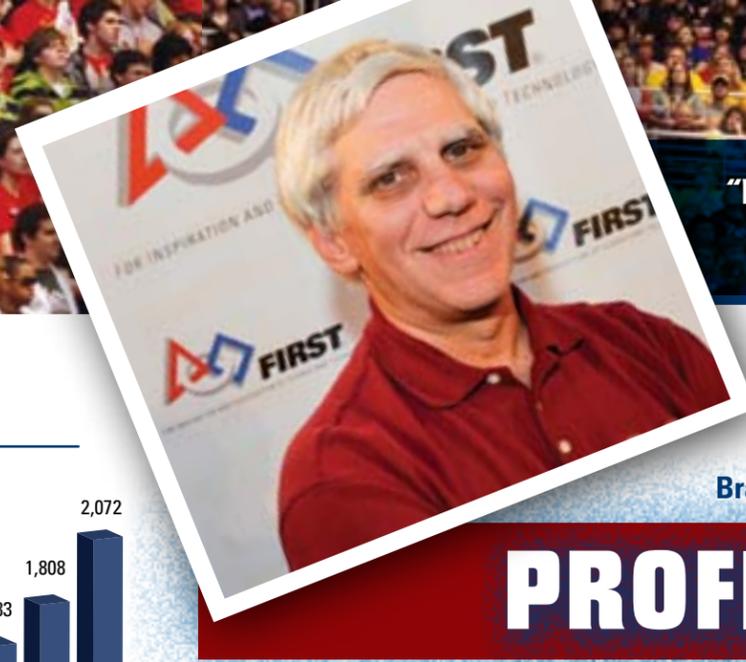
## TURNING UP THE TEAMS!



When technology and rock and roll converge, the combination is nothing less than amazing. That was evidenced by a 2011 groundbreaking, star-studded ABC TV special that showcased the efforts of FIRST in inspiring young people as it took an inside look at the 20th annual FRC season and FIRST Championship. The program, "i.am FIRST — Science is Rock and Roll," drew 2.8 million viewers; received extensive media coverage by CNN, CBS, BET, Forbes, The Washington Post, Bloomberg, NPR, Reuters, Yahoo News, The Boston Herald, The Huffington Post, and more; and generated more than 68,000,000 hits on numerous social networks including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.



In 2011, the FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®) celebrated its 20th season, commemorating two decades of innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math. More than 51,000 high-school students (2,072 teams, including 410 rookie teams) from 11 countries took on the LOGO MOTION™ engineering challenge. Three-team Alliances competed on a 27' x 54' field, earning points by hanging inflated triangle, circle, and square logo pieces during a match lasting two minutes and 15 seconds. Bonus points were earned for arranging pieces to form the FIRST logo and for deploying mini-bots to climb vertical poles. Teams participated in 48 Regional Competitions, nine District Competitions and one State Championship in Michigan, and the FRC Championship at the Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis, Missouri. This past year, team members were eligible to apply for nearly \$15 million in college scholarships from nearly 150 providers.



## "LOUD" AND LOCAL: MENTOR SAYS NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A FIRST CHALLENGE

When asked how he ended up with "the best job in the world," FIRST Robotics Competition Coach, Mentor, and Associate Director of the Robotics Resource Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Brad Miller says he spent so much time working on robotics-related activities that WPI had no choice but to make it official.

Brad Miller

## PROFILE

In 2000, the Massachusetts college's Associate Provost suggested Miller check out a FIRST event. Miller was so impressed by the enthusiasm of the FIRST students that he asked the Mentor of Team 190 — from Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science High School — if he could help. He has been mentoring the team ever since.

Miller helps with training at Kickoff Workshops for Mentors and gives pre-game sessions that get FRC teams up to speed for the coming season. In addition, he created WPILib, a software library that simplifies the process of programming the robots. This software is available to all FRC teams.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Miller's time with FIRST has been the opportunity to watch teams take software that he developed and use it to do things they "never thought possible; to solve problems they thought were out of their reach."

Miller is grateful for the opportunity WPI has provided him. "I feel fortunate to be working at a school that thinks so highly of the FIRST program," says Miller, who adds that WPI sponsors two FRC teams, is an Operational Partner for FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) in Massachusetts, and hosts an FRC Regional Competition, as well as the Massachusetts State FLL Championship.



John Knox  
February 22 at 10:33pm

Imagine... if that high school kid in 1978 with the really cool Camaro had been given the chance FIRST provides? What would he be doing now? FIRST takes that kid and makes him a super star. That's why I love FIRST!

Like · Comment · Share

29 people like this



by FIRSTtweets  
stepstate Steph A high school kid in Soledad's #dontfailme special:  
"I feel I don't have the right to not use the abilities I have." Wow.  
21 May

# SPONSORS

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

*FIRST* thanks all of 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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**Geoffrey B Brown**  
February 22 at 10:33pm

That's really awesome. President Obama's attention to education and in particular science is really phenomenal. Congratulations FIRST!

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Woodie Flowers Award Recipient John Larock Says Prestigious Award Is an Honor »



Although he has earned many awards in his tenure with the organization, Delaware-area *FIRST* Mentor John Larock says receiving this year's Woodie Flowers Award — in recognition of Mentors who lead, inspire, and empower using excellent communication skills — is a special honor.

While thrilled to receive the coveted award, Larock is quick to note his work with *FIRST* is about more than just awards. Rather, it's about his consummate passion when encouraging students — and the entire state of Delaware — to embrace *FIRST* and the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines.

Larock, who during his “spare” time is a University Relations and College Recruiting Manager at DuPont, has been instrumental in the company's support of many *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams and the FRC Philadelphia Regional. As Mentor of FRC Team 365 “Miracle Workerz” — aka “MOE” — Larock partnered with Salem Community College (SCC) and FRC Team 316 “LuNaTeCs” to develop the off-season “Duel on the Delaware” robotics competition, now in its tenth year.

Another “claim to fame” is Larock's creation of MOE U and a corresponding robotics curriculum. The fall training program helps students earn up to 18 college credits at SCC while learning engineering and machine shop skills. In 2003, he also developed MOEmentum, a web-based weekly guide for rookie FRC teams. In addition, the prolific Mentor, with the help of team members, designed a one-day competition to introduce *FIRST* to students in Northern Ireland.

On a daily basis, Larock coaches *FIRST* strategists, scouts, and Mentors. In addition, Larock has given hundreds of presentations and demos at schools, community events, and businesses on behalf of *FIRST*.

As an enthusiastic advocate for *FIRST*, Larock is a well-deserved recipient of the Woodie Flowers Award. As one Mentor said so well, “When the Woodie Flowers Award was created, it was as if they had John in mind.”

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by FIRSTtweets

**Soledad\_Obrien** Soledad O'Brien Yeah my kids loooved this doc! They'll def be in robotics—and I'll financially support a team too #dontfailme #fb 21 May

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**FIRST** is all about educational opportunities.

In 2011, all *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team members were eligible for over 930 scholarship opportunities, valued at more than \$14.8 million. *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) students were eligible for nearly \$9.7 million of these scholarship funds.

The majority of *FIRST* scholarships are provided by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses. The rest are provided by corporations and professional associations and are awarded for use at any school. Listed in this 2011 report (page 22) are 148 *FIRST* Scholarship Providers, 22 of which are new this year.

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

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## 2011 Founder's Award Recipient Helps Dreams Become a Reality »



Since initiating its involvement with *FIRST* in 2001, The Boeing Company — the 2011 *FIRST* Founder's Award recipient — has donated scholarships and provided employee Volunteers and countless Mentors to the organization, as well as sponsored numerous teams (more than 150 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams through grants and Mentors last season alone).

The Founder's Award, presented annually for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of *FIRST*, was accepted by Boeing Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Administration Rick Stephens, who pledged continued commitment in helping *FIRST* reach its strategic objectives for growth. Boeing is also a *FIRST* Strategic Partner and a Championship Sponsor.

"These young innovators will solve the problems we don't know exist yet," said Stephens, who added that the partnership with *FIRST* builds on Boeing's ongoing commitment to inspire future engineers and scientists.

*FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen applauded the efforts of Boeing at this year's Championship, saying it's an extraordinary company "that has made dreams fly and become a reality for thousands of students who would not otherwise have had an opportunity to participate in *FIRST*."



**Ankit Shah** FIRST inspired me to get a move on my education and to work harder to achieved my goals. Why should you join FIRST? Well... why not? FIRST teaches you about STEM, and you dont even realize it because you are having too much fun!

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**Penny File** Purpose in life begins and ends with being a FIRST mentor. Especially when it extends to off-season and into your shop. Wow! I guess I really did do something with my life. I actually get to make a difference in this crazy world!

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**Evan R. Hochstein**

about an hour ago

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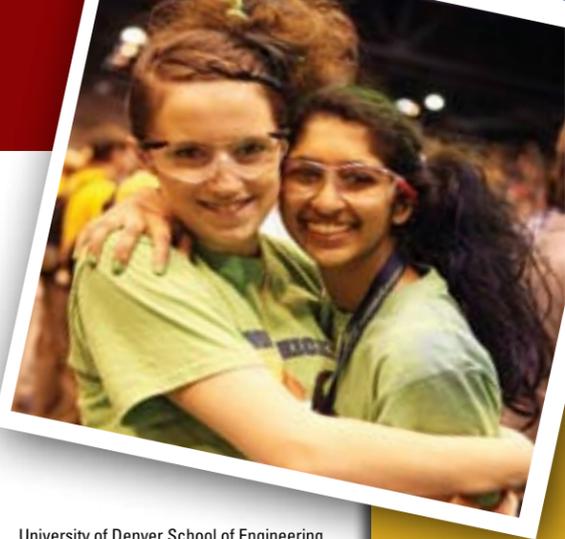
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**Livingston Lancer Robotics #3415** Thank you FIRST FTC for an amazing "Get Over It" season! The Lancers had a fantastic experience competing in the World Championship! See you all next year!

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by FIRSTweets

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**Rena Jo Clark Coffman**

51 minutes ago

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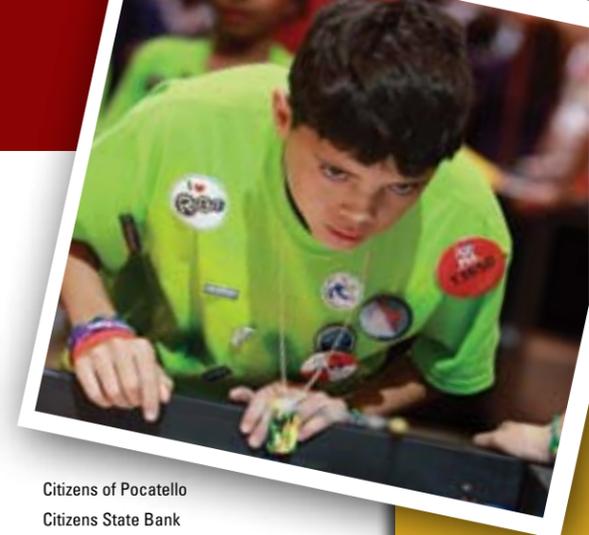
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**Sarah Hirst** I have been a FLL coach for 4 yrs at a low income school where I teach that has a very diverse population, of which about half are ELL students. Offering a FLL after school program has changed the lives of some of my students and provided them with positive opportunities they would have never experienced otherwise.

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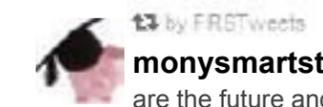
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**monysmartstdnts** Brian Hostick Just saw #dontfailme on CNN. Can say from experience FIRST students GET IT! Science and tech are the future and the NOW! Well done! 15 May



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**Princess Sweaty** FLL Coach Heather @firstlegoleague #smartmove 1st year coach, didn't know what I was getting myself or the team into, best move I ever made Now coach 2 teams.

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**Themickeyd** Ron McDonald Wow! The Jr.FLL in Seattle is huge this year [#jrFLL](#) [#Lego](#) [#FLL](#) [yfrog.com/kjeuazxcj](#) 12 Nov

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 Richner Family

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 Remotec  
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 Rhythm Engineering  
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 Richland College  
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 Richner Air Conditioning  
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by *FIRST* tweets

**britneyspears**

Britney Spears Check out this robotics program my dear friend @iamwill is working on: iamFIRST.com

He's putting the WE back in YES WE CAN :) –Brit 12 Aug

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 Teacher Association



**Mo Elhelw**

about an hour ago

FIRST introduced me to something that I liked to do, I was good at, could make a living doing, and a new crowd to become friends with. FIRST inspired me to work hard and never give up. The FIRST program has given me lots of great experiences and memories I'll hold onto forever.

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3 people like this



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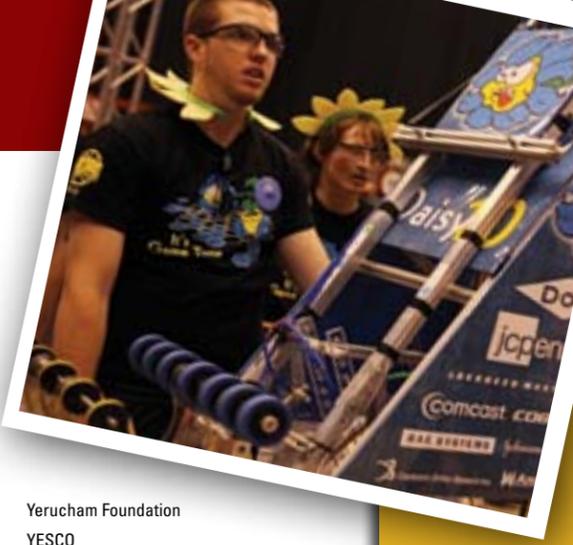
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by FIRSTtweets

**FutureFAE** Mark H. 7-8 year kids from our Junior [@FirstLegoLeague](#) brainstorm just like this! Amazing to watch.  
[@FIRSTtweets](http://bit.ly/oMLsC8) 2 Hours Ago

# FINANCIALS

In our fiscal year 2010-2011, *FIRST* once again provided consistently high quality experiences to the rapidly growing number of participants engaged in its progression of programs. Contributions remained strong again as many individuals, small businesses, corporations, and foundations continued or increased their support and new Sponsors joined *FIRST*. This is a continuing testimony to how essential the *FIRST* programs and mission are to thousands of youth, to their futures, and ours.

Once again, 88 percent of funds spent this fiscal year were for team services and and growth of programs; general and administrative expenses comprised 10 percent; and fundraising costs were only 2 percent, reflecting the *FIRST* long-time practice of applying the maximum amount of funds possible to directly benefit *FIRST* teams and their supporters.

The financial results for the last two fiscal years are summarized on the right. *FIRST* received an unqualified opinion for each of these years from its independent auditor, Berry Dunn.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	JUNE 30, 2011	JUNE 30, 2010
<i>Revenues and other support:</i>		
Program registration fees	\$ 14,074,525	\$ 14,843,617
Contributions and grants	15,615,389	14,976,448
Rental income, net of expenses	158,845	195,152
Other income	429,425	609,300
Special project, net of expenses of \$889,145 in 2011	25,017	-
Net assets released from restrictions	11,007,189	4,347,633
<b>Total revenues and other support</b>	<b>41,310,390</b>	<b>34,972,150</b>
<i>Expenses:</i>		
<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition (FRC)	29,310,219	23,313,034
<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (FLL) and Junior <i>FIRST</i> LEGO League (Jr.FLL)	3,989,305	3,835,473
<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge (FTC)	1,301,130	1,132,089
<i>FIRST</i> Place (FP)	110,022	89,192
General, administrative and supporting services	4,677,870	3,893,127
Operation of building	192,786	211,576
Depreciation	382,435	386,744
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>39,963,767</b>	<b>32,861,235</b>
<i>Operating surplus</i>	<i>1,346,623</i>	<i>2,110,915</i>
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
<i>Assets:</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$10,937,861	\$ 8,616,907
Short-term investments	6,559,528	7,046,728
Pledges, receivables, and other assets	8,183,290	7,942,107
Net property, plant, and equipment	3,579,012	3,779,335
<b>Total assets, end of year</b>	<b>29,259,691</b>	<b>27,385,077</b>
<i>Liabilities and net assets:</i>		
Total liabilities	4,015,048	2,972,348
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	14,547,673	13,201,050
Temporarily restricted for programs	10,696,970	11,211,679
<b>Total net assets, end of year</b>	<b>25,244,643</b>	<b>24,412,729</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 29,259,691</b>	<b>\$27,385,077</b>

*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 2010 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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*FIRST* gratefully acknowledges the contributions of those members whose service has concluded: Deborah L. Grubbe and Ronald L. Zarrella (Board of Directors); Peter Gould (Executive Advisory Board).

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**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.*

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