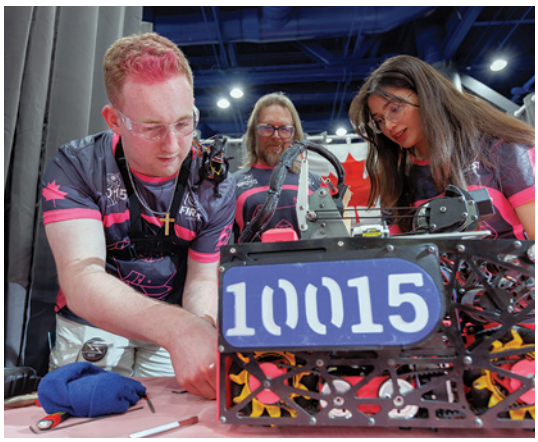
STEM for Everyone™ Impact Report 2026







FIRST® exists to prepare the young people of today for the world of tomorrow.

At *FIRST*,® we believe in *STEM for Everyone*.™ *FIRST* is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of unity. We embrace and celebrate our global community. Exploring, developing and implementing strategies to ensure opportunities for any young person who engages in our programs is critical for *FIRST* to fulfill its mission. ALL young people should have the opportunity to become science and technology leaders who have the skills, confidence and resilience to build a better world. To globally engage our community, in FY26 (July 2025 - June 2026) our strategy focused on a welcoming community for all *FIRST* participants.

Our *STEM for Everyone*™ Strategy

1. **Increase Capacity** through the commitment of *FIRST* Headquarters Social Impact & Engagement (SI&E), Volunteer Resources, Global Field Operations, and Education teams; a growing community of volunteers, participants, and educators; galvanizing alumni to champion STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education; and engaging youth and industry leaders.
2. **Build Skills and Resources** through developing inclusive and accessible programs, curriculum, and events for all; *STEM for Everyone* optional training for *FIRST* volunteers and students, all *FIRST* Headquarters staff and Program Delivery Organizations and Partners; professional development for classroom teachers; and activating thought leadership to share our best practices internally and externally.
3. **Engage Youth Where They Are** through a focus on all K-12 students, STEM Community Innovation Grants, partnering with youth serving organizations, opportunities to learn STEM via Educator Resources, and in school through *FIRST* Class Pack.
4. **Build Community** through expanding our alliances and partnerships with mission-driven organizations that embody and align with *FIRST* Core Values and continuing support for alumni through scholarship programs and career development pathways.
5. **Strategy Refinement** through assessment and reflection, we continuously refine our *STEM for Everyone* strategy at *FIRST* to meet the needs of the global community we serve and integrate it in our work across all departments at *FIRST* Headquarters.

An Expanded Focus on *STEM for Everyone*

OUTCOMES FOR FY26 INCLUDED:

- *FIRST*® Tech Challenge Curriculum Translation
- Language pins made available for event organizers to offer to volunteers and teams
- Development of new program materials, guides, and increased volunteer training to improve event experiences for all participants

Connecting All Youth To STEM

The 2025-2026 *FIRST* STEM Community Innovation Grant Award Recipients:

- **Edurobot Tunisia** (Tunisia)
- ***FIRST* Tech Challenge Jamaica** (Jamaica)
- **IFR Foundation** (Indonesia)
- **InfinityX Tech System Pvt. Ltd.** (India)
- **Levitate Learning** (Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada)
- **Smart Integrated Solutions** (Egypt)

FIRST STEM Community Innovation Grant

Launched in 2016, the annual competitive ***FIRST* STEM Community Innovation Grant (SCIG)** increases STEM learning for all students in *FIRST* programs. The goal of this grant is to expand STEM education to all students.

Furthermore, since 2021, **grants have provided STEM engagement opportunities for youth globally** across India, Nigeria, the United States of America, Canada, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Chile, Libya, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Tunisia, Jamaica, Indonesia, and Egypt.

EDUROBOT TUNISIA (TUNISIA)

Edurobot Tunisia implemented *FIRST* programs through the National Centre of Informatics for Children (CNIPE) that has 25 branches, strategically located across Tunisia, with one in each governorate. The CNIPE operates under the Ministry of Women, Family, and Childhood, and plays a critical role in fostering educational opportunities for children. They built competitive teams within these centers located in the most rural regions for *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge to enhance student technical skills, promote teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation.

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE JAMAICA (JAMAICA)

FIRST Tech Challenge Jamaica supported new teams at secondary schools, primarily located in rural areas. Despite the devastation of the October 2025 hurricane, *FIRST* Tech Challenge Jamaica built new teams in schools, empowering students with skills in engineering, programming, and critical thinking.

IFR FOUNDATION (INDONESIA)

IFR Foundation formed teams in Indonesia, a country with over 17,000 islands, which presents unique challenges in providing STEM education to all students. The project aimed to meet this goal by establishing new *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams across four of the nation's cities: Depok (West Java), Jakarta (DKI Jakarta), Denpasar (Bali), and Yogyakarta (DI Yogyakarta).

INFINITYX TECH SYSTEM PVT. LTD. (INDIA)

The InfinityX project increased participation in STEM among communities in India. By leveraging the *FIRST* Tech Challenge framework, the initiative provided hands-on robotics programs, mentorship opportunities, and skill building workshops. Collaborating with schools, community organizations, and industry partners, InfinityX ensured participants gained access to the tools, resources, and guidance necessary to succeed in STEM. The program fostered critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities to prepare students for careers in technology-driven industries.

LEVITATE LEARNING (NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA)

The Levitate Learning project increased STEM participation through providing *FIRST* programs to classrooms in Labrador, commencing with the *FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore and *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge programs, expanding to *FIRST* Tech Challenge. Delivered by Program Specialists, the initiative focused on capacity-building within schools by equipping educators with the tools and knowledge needed to sustain these programs independently. This initiative empowered youth to envision pathways in STEM fields while fostering critical thinking, teamwork, and innovation.

SMART INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS (EGYPT)

Smart Integrated Solutions supported new and existing *FIRST*® LEGO® League teams in Egypt. Through their network of robotics centers and partners in different regions all over Egypt, they engaged a wide population. Through *FIRST*, the grant opened gateways of hope and education to these communities.

FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

4,500+
Youth Reached*

For all teams, emerging outcomes show a trend toward gains in:

STEM Interest
Leadership Skills
Sense of Belonging
Problem Solving

FINDINGS FROM YOUTH TEAM MEMBER SURVEYS**

FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE CHALLENGE	*FIRST*® TECH CHALLENGE
96% said they had fun in the program	**100%** said they had fun in the program
90% would like to participate again	**100%** would like to participate again

Note: *Data is from FY2026 and summarizes data reported by grant site administrators. **Data is from 5 *FIRST* Tech Challenge youth and 56 *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge youth.

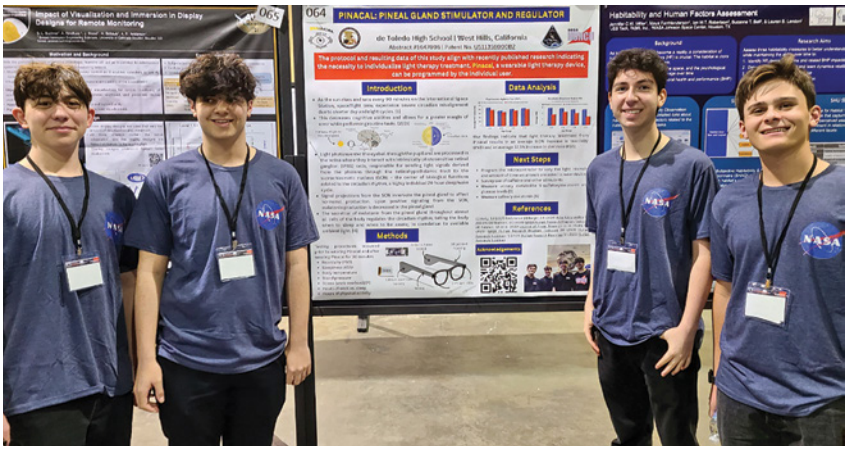
#PeopleofSTEAM

#PeopleofSTEAM: A *STEM for Everyone* Storytelling Campaign

People of STEAM is an ongoing blog series featuring a wide array of people of all ages and backgrounds who are involved in *FIRST* and/or making an impact in the world of STEAM. In February 2026, we marked our three-year anniversary of #PeopleofSTEAM to amplify the voices of our global community, featuring 16 people through blogs and videos.

MEET TEAM HESCHEL ROBOHAWKS

FIRST LEGO League team Heschel RoboHawks has had an amazing STEAM journey, starting with *FIRST*. Led by their mentor, Kathy, this team was able to go from curious participants in the third grade, to securing a patent for their *FIRST*-inspired innovation before even graduating high school, proving that anyone – at any age – can be a person of STEAM. This is a story of ingenuity, supportive mentors, and STEM skills that will take you anywhere: from designing medical technology to ideating products that can be used where most of us have not gone yet – space. Learn more about the Heschel RoboHawks' incredible innovation journey and all they have done to showcase that ingenuity is not just for the adults.



Within a span of 9 years, *FIRST* LEGO League team Heschel RoboHawks was able to go from curious participants in the third grade, to securing a patent for their *FIRST*-inspired innovation before even graduating high school.

#PEOPLEOFSTEAM SOCIAL FEATURES

- Meet Amanda — Brazil's first lead robot inspector in *FIRST*® Robotics Competition
- Meet Team Curiosity — *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team "Curiosity" Expands STEM for Students in Los Angeles
- Meet Garrison — A *FIRST* Robotics Competition alum lands Super Bowl commercial
- Meet Jenna — A *FIRST* alum helping shape the future of space exploration
- Meet Team Octopus — *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team "OCTOPUS" is championing *STEM for Everyone*



As Brazil's first and only Lead Robot Inspector (LRI) for *FIRST* Robotics Competition, Amanda (top row, third from the left) has been invested in the mission and spirit of *FIRST* since she joined *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 1156 "Under Control."



FIRST Tech Challenge Team 11770 "Curiosity" is based out of Marlborough School in Los Angeles, CA. Inspired by the Curiosity Mars Rover, the team is dedicated to promoting STEM and robotics within their community, with a focus on increasing STEM education and robotics participation for all students.

Notable Highlights in 2025-2026

Expanded Partnership with AISES

In November 2022, we announced the *FIRST* and AISES partnership to bring robotics programming to schools in the United States.

The goals of this partnership are to:

1) Remove barriers to participation in STEM education
2) Build awareness and increase retention for students in grades 6-12
3) Increase success in STEM higher education through scholarships

For FY26, we reached students and teachers in communities in North Carolina, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Montana. We also continued a scholarship program for higher education, to award 20 undergraduate students and 10 graduate students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Thought Leadership at WE25

Society of Women Engineers
Aspire / Advance / Achieve

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

Dr. Janell N. Catlin, *FIRST* Vice President, Social Impact & Engagement, represented *FIRST* to amplify our commitment to *STEM for Everyone* at the annual conference of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in October 2025 (New Orleans, Louisiana).

She participated in a panel discussion as part of WE25's "Invent It. Build It." Dr. Catlin discussed the *FIRST* mission, programs, strategy, and ongoing partnership with SWE. Attendees learned how to become more involved in supporting *FIRST* to build a better world.

Continuation of the *FIRST* and UNCF Scholars Program

The *FIRST* x UNCF Scholars Program was announced in March 2022, as an initiative designed to provide scholarship and academic support for *FIRST* alumni who aspire to become leaders and innovators in their respective fields. Since March 2023 and continuing for the 2025-2026 Academic Year, the Program was expanded to award students with renewable undergraduate scholarships.

Media Features and Articles

- Supercharged by Learning STEM
- What *Gracious Professionalism*® Means to Me
- The Path to Future Innovators
- Mark Rober is Transforming STEM
- Shaping the Next STEM Generation
- Teens Compete in Global Robotics Competition



Julia B. from *FIRST* Tech Challenge team The Moment Makers (Houston, Texas) and Dr. Janell N. Catlin, *FIRST* Vice President, Social Impact & Engagement spoke with media about *FIRST* Championship.

FIRST is Committed to *STEM for Everyone*

FIRST is a global robotics community that prepares young people for the future, and key to our strategic intent is to serve every student, everywhere. This commitment includes promoting and engaging in initiatives that ensure a welcoming community for all participants, including students, adult mentors, coaches, and volunteers.

FIRST Core Values

The *FIRST* Core Values emphasize friendly sportsmanship, respect for the contributions of others, teamwork, learning, and community involvement and are part of our commitment to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of unity. The *FIRST* Community expresses the *FIRST* philosophies of *Gracious Professionalism*® and *Coopertition*® through our Core Values:

Discovery
We explore new skills and ideas.

Innovation
We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.

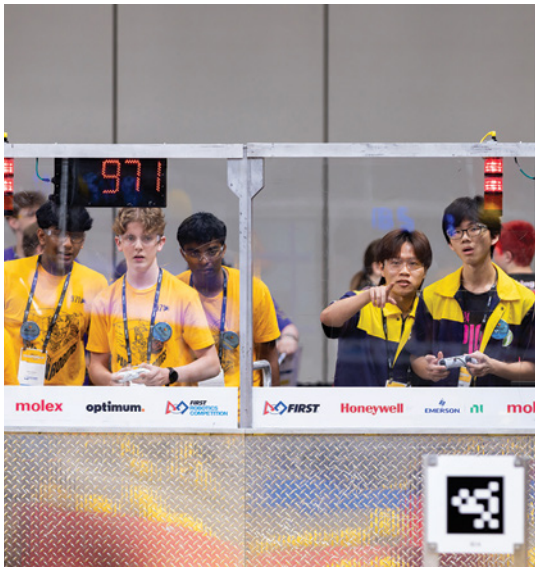
Impact
We apply what we learn to improve our world.

Inclusion
We respect each other and embrace our differences.

Teamwork
We are stronger when we work together.

Fun
We enjoy and celebrate what we do!







Thank You to Our Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support and commitment to *STEM for Everyone* at *FIRST*. Their support enables us to explore, develop, and implement strategies to ensure a welcoming community for all.

Questions, contact us directly sie@firstinspires.org Learn more about *FIRST* at ***www.firstinspires.org***

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