

# Building a Community

2017 Annual Impact Report

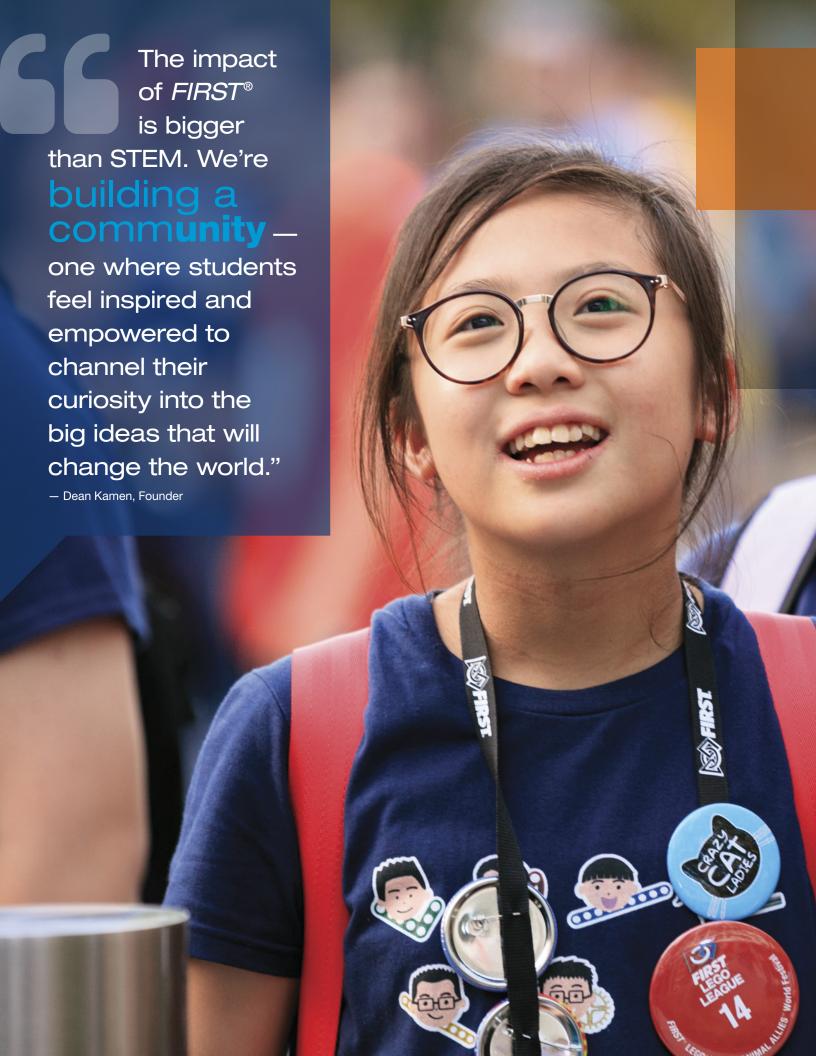












# Building a Community

2017 Annual Impact Report

t takes a pretty big village to raise a generation of young people who will go on to make our businesses healthier, our global economy stronger, and our society more resilient. FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is this village. We are proud to connect students, educators, and professionals to a community where we can nurture, embrace, educate, and empower today's youth as they chart their paths, while developing the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills they will need to be successful in any career.

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely on our expansive network of volunteers and leaders in business, government, media, education, and entertainment to carry out our mission, and we couldn't be more grateful. With their tireless support, we help our students become well-rounded adults who can persevere in an ever-changing workforce.

Our innovative, inspirational community is millions of people strong and growing every day. We meet in classrooms, in each other's homes, in community centers, in makerspaces, and on social media all year round. We help each other solve problems, have fun, and challenge ourselves. Creating opportunities for connection and mentorship in an inclusive environment is integral to accomplishing our goal of inspiring innovation and leadership in young people.

## The FIRST community has created a transformative movement.

The FIRST community has created a transformative movement, and we're stronger than ever. Together, we span demographics, ages, races, and professions, but we're brought together by a shared responsibility to affect and inspire a better world. FIRST is the community that's building global, national, and local networks to not only inspire kids to pursue STEM education and careers, but to solve problems, drive innovation, and create positive change that benefits us all.

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## Will you join us as we come together to build a better world?

Join the FIRST movement, Learn more at www.firstinspires.org.

# **Impact** That Builds Community

A decade of verifiable data shows that exposing kids to fun, exciting FIRST programs builds 21st century work skills and greatly increases their motivation to seek education and careers in STEM fields. Three years of data from a rigorous longitudinal study of FIRST indicates that girls in FIRST are significantly more likely to have even greater gains in STEM than their peers or boys in FIRST.



## **ULTIMATE IMPACT 75%+ of FIRST Alumni** are in a STEM field (student or professional)

Inspired to learn more? www.firstinspires.org/about/impact

### **STEM Exposure**

#### **FIRST STUDENTS**

**84%** build the robot

**88%** work on robot design strategy

60% program/code

77% learn about STEM iobs

**97%** have FUN!

#### GIRLS IN FIRST

75% build the robot

**89%** work on robot design strategy

61% program/code

78% learn about STEM iobs

**97%** have FUN!

## **STEM Interest & Skills**

#### **FIRST STUDENTS**

**88%** more interested in learning about STEM

88% better understand how STEM is used to solve real-world problems

98% increase teamwork skills

93% increase problemsolving skills

#### **GIRLS IN FIRST**

**85%** more interested in learning about STEM

92% better understand how STEM is used to solve real-world problems

99% increase teamwork skills

98% increase problemsolving skills



## **Education, STEM Careers**

### **Long-Term Outcomes**

#### **FIRST STUDENTS**

**86%** more interested in doing well in school

**84%** motivated to take challenging math or science classes (FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge)

94% embrace the importance of Coopertition, Gracious Professionalism®

**80%** more interested in jobs that use STEM

#### **GIRLS IN FIRST**

83% motivated to take challenging math or science classes (FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge)

98% embrace the importance of Coopertition, Gracious Professionalism

**82%** more interested in jobs that use STEM (FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge)

#### FIRST ALUMNI ARE\*

**1.8x** more likely to be very interested in computer science majors

2.3x more likely to be very interested in engineering majors

**3.9x** more likely to be very interested in robotics majors

2.3x more likely to take an engineering course their freshman year

#### **FEMALE FIRST ALUMNAE\***

**3.1x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in computer science

**3.2x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in engineering

**5.1x** more likely to be very interested in majoring in robotics

**3.4x** more likely to take an engineering course freshmen year

\*Than a matched comparison group. SOURCES: 1) FIRST Longitudinal Study, 2015 2) Brandeis University: Cross-Program Evaluation of FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition (2011); 3) Evaluation of the 2012-13 FIRST LEGO League Program (2013); 4) More than Robots: Evaluation of FIRST Robotics Competition Participant and Institutional Impacts (2005); 5) FIRST, 2015 Survey of FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Tech Challenge Alumni



## Founder's and Co-Chairs' Letter

eople often define communities as the towns or cities they call home, but as technology changes the way we live and do business, communities continue to cross geographic and physical borders. We're connected with each other in-person and online. Communities are the foundation of our society, and we must continue to foster inclusive, strong, and well-resourced networks for ourselves and our children.

That's where FIRST comes in. Our programs build communities and relationships that have the power to change attitudes and upend preconceived notions. Through FIRST, students acquire the personal and professional skills they'll need for a lifetime of success, in the workforce and as well-rounded citizens of the world. Our programs provide welcoming, safe, and thought-provoking environments in which students from all walks of life can find knowledge, inspiration, and a sense of belonging - and discover themselves along the way.

FIRST is a movement, and our communities extend far beyond the brick and mortar: We're more than a place, an event, a team, or a program. Mentors guide student experiences and get fulfillment from passing knowledge to the next generation. Alumni dedicate time to their former teams or those nearby, and maintain the lifelong friendships and connections formed through their FIRST experience. Volunteers and donors keep our community running, and sponsors build connections and pathways for students seeking experiences, internships, and careers both inside and outside STEM fields.

The power of the FIRST community transcends friendships and career prospects; it creates connections to inspire students who face barriers to education. In New York City, a public school district for students with special education needs is using FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. to give students their first chance to be part of a team, and they are exceeding all expectations (details on page 23). In Alberta, Canada, educators on remote First Nation reserves are using FIRST® Robotics Competition, FIRST® Tech Challenge, and FIRST® LEGO® League to provide professional development and distance learning opportunities to help students graduate (details on page 15).

We extend our most heartfelt thanks to those who give their time and resources to FIRST: Your support, time, and passion have made a difference for millions of kids worldwide. We're proud to continue what you've helped build.

We hope our community and progress inspire you, and we invite you to join us - or grow your support - however you feel most passionate and able. The FIRST family is large, and growing, and much work remains; there are students worldwide in need of STEM education, access to mentorship, support networks, and more.

Become a mentor, sponsor a team, commit your company's people and resources, or volunteer at a local FIRST event. Our kids deserve so much, and with your help, we can give it to them.



Dean Kamen Founder



Robert K. Ortberg Co-Chair, Board of Directors



**Bob Tuttle** Co-Chair, Board of Directors

## Will you help us grow our community?

Join the FIRST movement. Learn more at www.firstinspires.org.



## President's Letter

f all the qualities that set FIRST apart, I'm most proud of the community we've built. Our students, mentors, educators, sponsors, and supporters bring different backgrounds and experiences to the table. They open each other's eyes to new opportunities and provide inspiration that lasts a lifetime. As a result, FIRST students and alumni are already impacting the economy and working to improve social issues. I can't wait to see what they do next.

Communities have a responsibility to help kids become good citizens and critical thinkers who can collaborate and respect each other. FIRST is uniquely positioned to meet these needs.

- Addressing inequality. Seeing our programs reach students who haven't had an opportunity to engage with a meaningful STEM learning opportunity inspires me. FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grants are making more of these connections possible. For example, S.A.Y. Detroit Play Center - an after-school resource for disadvantaged youth – uses FIRST programs to provide a stable environment and STEM mentors, which students may otherwise lack (details on page 14).
- Inspiring lifelong learners. Our investment in longitudinal research continues to show that FIRST works – and the impact on students extends well beyond the classroom. Our growing alumni network knows this best. Many go on to volunteer with FIRST and generously give their time and talents in the communities they join.
- **Creating connections.** Teamwork and collaboration across organizations are key to building a tech-enabled community and a STEM-savvy workforce. I'm proud to see FIRST expanding its reach through new and revamped partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and industry leaders. Our partnerships with colleges and universities helped increase scholarship opportunities for FIRST alumni to more than \$50 million available in 2017.
- Developing thoughtful citizens. Inspiring change and encouraging progress are shared responsibilities. FIRST is training its mentors, coaches, and volunteers to better support a culture of diversity and inclusion; translating key program materials to improve accessibility; and empowering kids to use their smarts for good.

As we work to reach our goals, FIRST must find creative ways to meet our community's needs. For example, we executed our first-ever dual FIRST Championship, giving more students the opportunity to attend and make game-changing connections with our network - students like Fredele Burns, from a rural Navajo community in Utah, who attended with his FIRST® Robotics Competition team and a robot they built largely out of scrap metal. Fredele's participation earned him a full-ride scholarship, bringing him closer to his dream of becoming a doctor.

To all FIRST mentors, volunteers, alumni, sponsors, donors, educators, and other supporters: Thank you for building a community that opens doors and provides lasting connections critical to helping students reach their full potential.

I believe more than ever that the FIRST community should be open and accessible to every student, regardless of location, demographic, or background. We all have a part to play to ensure every child has a foundation for success.



Donald E. Bossi President

Let's work together to give every child a brighter future.

Join the FIRST movement. Learn more at www.firstinspires.org.



## Fantastic Facts



## Gracious Professionalism®

"Respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you've learned"



448,000

participants (ages 6-18)



230,00

mentor/coach/volunteer roles filled



17,000,000

hours donated by volunteers

## Coopertition<sup>®</sup>

"Competing teams help and cooperate with each other"



U.S. States



countries

scholarship providers





Fortune 500 companies sponsor FIRST



in scholarships



growth in number of FIRST teams (over 2016)

# imitless

opportunities for a meaningful experience



# Progression of Programs

A progression of four programs gets young people involved early, developing skills and building confidence, keeping them engaged from kindergarten through high school.



Ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12)

Mentored by STEM professionals, teams compete with 120-pound robots of their own design, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. It's a sport where every student can go pro.

- Robotics
- Learn From the Pros
- Game Play
- Scholarships



Ages 12-18 (Grades 7-12)

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

- Robotics
- Engineering Notebook
- Game Play
- Scholarships



Ages 9-16\* (Grades 4-8)

\*Ages vary by country

Guided by FIRST Core Values, teams build and program autonomous robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a series of missions on a themed playing field. They also develop research projects based on a real-world theme that changes annually.

- Robotics
- LEGO® MINDSTORMS®
- Game Play
- Research

FIRST **LEGO® LEAGUE JR.** 

Ages 6-10 (Grades K-4)

Teams explore today's scientific challenges, then present what they learned using a Show Me poster. They also build a LEGO® model and program it to make it move using LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0.

- Engineering Notebook
- LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0
- Research
- Presentations

# **Expanding** Access to the FIRST Community

FIRST launched its STEM Equity Community Innovation Grants program in the 2016-2017 season to provide grants to underrepresented and underserved communities. Supported by generous sponsors and donors, the grants empower educators and community leaders to develop new, innovative approaches to address inequities in STEM education using proven FIRST programs. An evaluation was conducted to assess the implementation, impact, and practices around access, equity, and inclusion.

9 Sites

1,080 Youth Reached

152 Teams Started

## Supporting STEM Engagement in Detroit Community Center



#### S.A.Y. DETROIT PLAY CENTER

To fill a critical gap in one of Michigan's most disinvested neighborhoods, the S.A.Y. (Sports. Academics. Youth.) Detroit Play Center sought high-quality, mentor-driven STEM programs to excite and engage local students at its afterschool tutoring and recreation center, which was opened by philanthropist Mitch Albom in 2015. With funding from a FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant and support from FIRST in Michigan leaders and local FIRST Robotics Competition Team 503 "Frog Force," S.A.Y. Play added a robotics room, formed FIRST LEGO League and

FIRST Tech Challenge teams, and hosted a tournament in its first year.

With FIRST programs, S.A.Y. Play is helping fill a void of team-based STEM engagement opportunities in neighborhood schools. In addition to building and programming robots, the S.A.Y. Play students are building positive relationships with STEM role models and learning to collaborate to solve problems, present their ideas to others, and practice public speaking. For the students, these opportunities are incredibly meaningful. "My favorite part is we get to learn new things every day," Tyler, age 8, says.

"[FIRST is] opening everyone's eyes to the potential that robotics has. It's not something you see every day [in the community]."

-Lena Pernell, Director, S.A.Y. Detroit Play Center



## Breaking Down Barriers to STEM Access in First Nations Communities

#### ALBERTA DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER

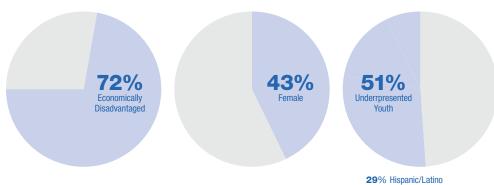
The Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC) is breaking down access barriers to hands-on, community-based STEM learning experiences in rural and remote First Nations communities throughout Alberta, Canada, with the support of a FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant. The grant helped establish and grow FIRST teams at three First Nations schools, including funding ADLC curriculum development, First Nations teacher training, and a celebratory robotics and cultural event.

Young people from First Nations communities experience graduation rates that are lower than the Canadian average, often attributed to low attendance rates and skill shortages. FIRST programs fit well with Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, which include mentor-based learning, learning by doing, and learning through community. Through ADLC, First Nations students gained access to credits for participating meaningfully on FIRST teams. FIRST engaged the students in STEM and helped increase school attendance.

"We've never had robotics on our reserve. We felt it was important to help people learn about robotics because from robots you can launch careers into greater things: programming, building, design, repair."

-Lloyd Verreault, Teacher/Mentor, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 6673 "Alexis Tech Warriors"

### Reached more underrepresented and underserved youth



15% Black/African American 7% North American Indian

Results on this page are from an evaluation of the 2016-2017 FIRST® STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant.

#### Positive outcomes as a result of participation

GAINS IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS

Teamwork 93%

Problem Solving 97%

Leadership 91%

**GAINS IN STEM** 

STEM Interest 95%

STEM Awareness 93%

STEM Career Interest 90%



**Fascination with STEM STEM Values Competency Beliefs in STEM STEM Innovation Stance** 



**STEM Learning Activation** 

#### **Factors that resulted** in success

A local **Champion** with a personal connection to the community

Flexibility holding off-season events and extending the season to accommodate schedules

#### **Removing Barriers**

providing transportation, food, child care, and coach stipends

Peer Mentoring by other FIRST teams

**Community Support** 

**Training** 



FIRST is honored to welcome new Strategic **Partners John Deere** and **NRG**. Thank you!





Nine communities reached more than 1,000 underserved and underrepresented students with hands-on learning and problem-solving opportunities after receiving 2016 FIRST STEM Equity **Community Innovation Grants**, sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, The Boeing Company, and Microsoft, among others; 2017 Grant was announced.



**Rockwell Automation** announced a four-year, \$12 million commitment to FIRST to address critical need to inspire and train students for today's industrial careers.



FIRST, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Qualcomm<sup>®</sup> Incorporated hosted a Learn. Explore. Inspire. event aboard the **USS Midway** to rally support for STEM opportunities and student access to San Diego military communities.



**Second annual** FIRST, Inspire Gala honored David Siegel & Dana Matsushita. Dr. Irwin M. & Joan K. Jacobs, and Dr. Paul E. & Geneviève Jacobs for advancing STEM education in underserved communities.



Inaugural dual **FIRST Championship** events took place in Houston and St. Louis, with the culminating **FIRST** Festival of Champions held in Manchester, New Hampshire.





#### **Triangle Fraternity** is

comprised of members who are pursuing college majors in engineering, math, and the sciences. They formalized an **Alliance** relationship with *FIRST* in order to help promote our programs among their members and encourage FIRST participation and engagement within their Fraternity Chapters.



FIRST Scholarship program exceeded \$50 million milestone.







"We know that nurturing and strengthening education leads to continued innovation and, in the long run, economic growth.

Qualcomm's support of *FIRST* goes beyond traditional sponsorship. We want to transform young people's lives and the future of our industry."

-Paul Jacobs

## Second Annual FIRST, Inspire Gala

To help expand diversity efforts and STEM opportunities for students in underserved communities, hundreds of *FIRST* supporters gathered at Cipriani 55 Wall Street in New York City for the second annual *FIRST*, Inspire Gala.

The event featured prominent speakers such as Dan Huttenlocher, Dean and Vice Provost of Cornell Tech; Dean Kamen, founder of *FIRST*; and many *FIRST* students, recognizing the impact that the organization has made in STEM education over the past 27 years.

"We come from different backgrounds, different cultures, and different lifestyles," Eram, a student from Bronx Academy for Software Engineering, told the audience. "But what we all have in common is our passion for *FIRST*. With the skills that we learn and practice through *FIRST* programs, we will be the next generation that can solve some of the world's biggest problems."

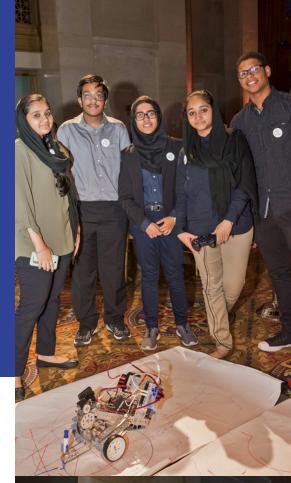
The charity event included a live auction that featured a clock handmade by Kamen that sold to United Therapeutics. Proceeds from the event further expand opportunities for more students to participate in *FIRST* programs.





"FIRST is about helping each other succeed, and building community. Our problems today will be solved by the next generation. I can think of no better organization to solve them than FIRST."

David Siegel



Six honorees were presented with individual awards for their efforts to advance STEM education in underserved communities:

**David M. Siegel**, Co-Founder, Two Sigma Investments and member of the *FIRST* NYC Board of Directors, and **Dana Matsushita** earned the John C. Whitehead Leadership Award in honor of the New York City luminary who recognized the need for hands-on activities that inspire youth with the power of STEM.

**Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs**, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus, Qualcomm Incorporated; **Joan K. Jacobs**; **Dr. Paul E. Jacobs**, Executive Chairman, Qualcomm Incorporated; and **Geneviève Jacobs** earned the Community Inspiration Award for inspiring students to pursue STEM and help build stronger communities.

Thank you to our FIRST, Inspire Gala sponsors who appear on page 50 of this Report.





\$1.4 million raised to expand diversity efforts and student access to STEM opportunities



**PRESENTED BY** 

## Qualcom

# FIRST Championship Community Doubles

he annual FIRST Championship offered attendees its usual exciting, action-packed experience, but for the first time, twice as many people experienced the heart-pounding thrills and team spirit of this incredible sporting event.

Thanks to the support of FIRST sponsors, host cities Houston and St. Louis, and thousands of pumped-up volunteers, more than 30,000 students from 62 countries put their innovation skills to the test at the inaugural dual FIRST Championship presented by Qualcomm.

This global celebration of science, engineering, and technology inspired students and adults alike, with intense competitions, opportunities to create connections, shared ideas, and hands-on fun and technology demonstrations at the FIRST Innovation Faire.

2017 FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Championship Events

Houston & St. Louis



45,000+

team participants (students, mentors, coaches, and adult supporters)



represented



63,000+



2,400

"FIRST is a robust community of students, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors from all over the world. Each of you has your own unique qualities that make you a champion, but we are all united by our passion for using technology and engineering to make the world a better, safer, and healthier place." - Donald E. Bossi

## 2017 FIRST Championship Sponsors

PRESENTING SPONSOR

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#### **PROGRAM SPONSORS**























#### **SPONSORS**

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St. Louis Union Station Hotel TE Connectivity Texas Instruments Uber United Technologies Viasat Vulcan Spring Walt Disney Imagineering









# FIRST. LEGO LEAGUE JR.

## Accomplishments

Approximately 64,000 6-10 year-olds participated on 10,655 teams in 42 countries, celebrating curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork.

## Competitions

Over 400 regional Expos; FIRST LEGO League Jr. World Festival Expo in Houston and St. Louis.

## Noteworthy

Registered teams each received an exclusive LEGO Inspire Model to help start their journey. A grant from the LEGO Foundation allowed more than 8,000 underserved children across five countries to join in the season.

oung children ages 6-10 dove into the animal kingdom to learn how humans and animals help each other every day. Students built LEGO® models and programmed them with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0 to make them move. They documented their journey in an Engineering Notebook and created Show Me posters to represent what they learned.







# Sharing in the Community

#### LESLIE SCHECHT

FIRST LEGO League Jr. School District, District 75 New York, New York

New York City's District 75 provides city-wide support programs for 25,000 public school students from pre-K to age 21 with moderate to severe disabilities. As the district's director of STEM, Leslie Schecht is always looking for kinesthetic programs to reach kids with special needs.

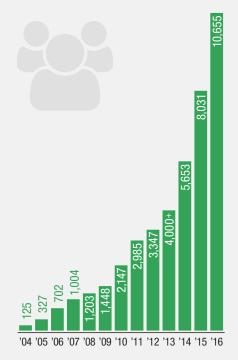
Leslie was interested in FIRST LEGO League Jr. for her students because it was hands on and offered meaningful opportunities to collaborate and build social skills. "It's very important, especially for kids on the autism spectrum, to work with other students, and it was the perfect venue for our students."



During the 2016-2017 school year, Leslie worked with FIRST NYC to pilot the program in 22 district schools, including providing professional development for teachers and hosting a student expo in the spring at the New York Hall of Science.

The expo, attended by members of the community, has been a key part of FIRST LEGO League Jr.'s success in District 75, where the program is growing. "It's inspirational: Kids see each other's work and appreciate each other's work, and they get ideas, so it's all about moving forward," Leslie said.

### Team Growth



I really believe that if it's good for general education students, it's good for special education students. It's just a matter of adapting and making it accessible."

 Leslie Schecht, Director of STEM, NYC Department of Education District 75

# FIRST. LEGO LEAGUE

# Ages 9-16\* (Grades 4-8)

## Accomplishments

Approximately 248,000 9-16 year-olds\* on 31,079 teams from 86 countries participated in this season's Challenge.

eams explored how we can improve our interactions with animals. Students were challenged to think about all the different ways that people interact with animals, and how we can be better allies.



## Competitions

1,248 Qualifying Tournaments, 153 Championship Tournaments, 5 Open Championships; FIRST LEGO League World Festival in Houston and St. Louis.

## Noteworthy

FIRST Steps gave new coaches an online, meeting-by-meeting resource to navigate their first season and connect with their contemporaries.

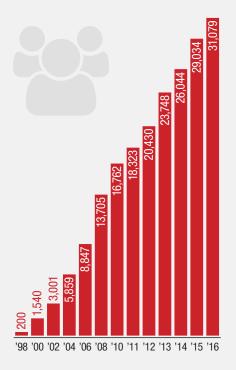
Global Innovation Award winners The Hydrators of Oakville, Ontario, Canada, created the H<sub>2</sub>0 Post (Horses Hydrating Outside), an automated water post to monitor the amount of water horses drink using chips implanted in the horse's naval cavity (details on page 47).



\*Ages vary by country



## Team Growth



# Connecting communities

#### **ZAINA SIYED**

FIRST LEGO League Team 23772, "FemSTEM" Chino Hills, California

At age 16, FIRST LEGO League Alumna Zaina Siyed founded the FemSTEM Robotics Scholarship Program, an all-female Muslim robotics team and scholarship fund based in Chino Hills, California. She recruited students, crowdfunded the costs, and coached the FIRST LEGO League team out of a local mosque.

Inspired by her own FIRST LEGO League experience, where she learned a lot about robotics, teamwork, coding, and perseverance, Zaina sought to awaken Muslim girls to STEM and break down barriers. "I wanted the girls in my community to experience FIRST LEGO League and be tech literate, passionate about STEM, and open to STEM careers," she said. "I wanted them to be leaders and cooperative problem solvers."

In just four months, Zaina helped eight girls without any prior robotics experience prepare for a FIRST LEGO League tournament. Despite being a rookie team, FemSTEM won a first-place overall award and advanced to a state championship. "My community was very proud of them and I think we have encouraged others to join FIRST," she said.

For me, the FIRST community has been a uniting force and has helped everyone realize that lots of communities share a passion for science and technology."

Zaina Sived, Founder/Coach. FemSTEM

# Ages 12-18 (Grades 7-12)

## Accomplishments

Approximately 52,000 participants (ages 12-18, grades 7-12) on 5,222 teams from 23 countries; eligible for over \$50 million in college scholarships.

## Competitions

628 Meets, League Championships, and Qualifying Tournaments; 82 Championship Tournaments; 4 Super-Regional Championship Tournaments; FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in Houston and St. Louis.

## Noteworthy

This year's challenge introduced the use of Vuforia<sup>™</sup> augmented reality software offered by PTC, allowing teams to track the orientation of image targets on the field to assist in autonomous navigation. Such exciting, best-in class technology enhancements are made possible by the powerful Qualcomm Snapdragon processors used by teams.

eams designed, programmed, and operated robots to place small balls into vortexes, including a Center Vortex on a rotatable stand, light beacons with their alliance's color, and raise a large ball off the playing field and place it in their Center Vortex.

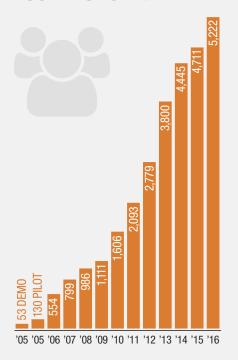


Qualcom





## Team Growth



# Building passion in a tech community

#### **BAILEE ALLEN**

Founder, FIRST Tech Challenge Team 9761 "The PrestidigiTaters" Saint George, Utah

FIRST participant Bailee Allen was one of the 50 National Winners of the 2017 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. She plans to major in graphic design and start a web business – and she credits her unwavering passion for technology to the community she's formed in southern Utah through FIRST and FIRST Strategic Alliances 4-H and NCWIT.

After participating in FIRST LEGO League and taking a programming class through 4-H, Bailee and her FIRST friends formed FIRST Tech Challenge Team 9761 "The PrestidigiTaters" through a 4-H grant. "That's when I started to notice the difference the community around me was making on my FIRST experience and my path through technology," she said.

The PrestidigiTaters have made it a priority to give back to the community through outreach events, robotics demonstrations, and teaching at technology and summer camps. The team also hosted a scrimmage for rookie FIRST Tech Challenge teams and mentors local FIRST LEGO League teams - or "potential PrestidigiTaters," as Bailee calls them. "FIRST Tech Challenge is just fun. We do so many great things," she said.

We wanted to give others the same opportunities we've been shown through FIRST and our tech community here in southern Utah."

- Bailee Allen, Founder/Student, The PrestidigiTaters

# FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

# Ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12)

## Accomplishments

84,000 high-school students on 3,357 teams from 25 countries; eligible for over \$50 million in college scholarships.

## Competitions

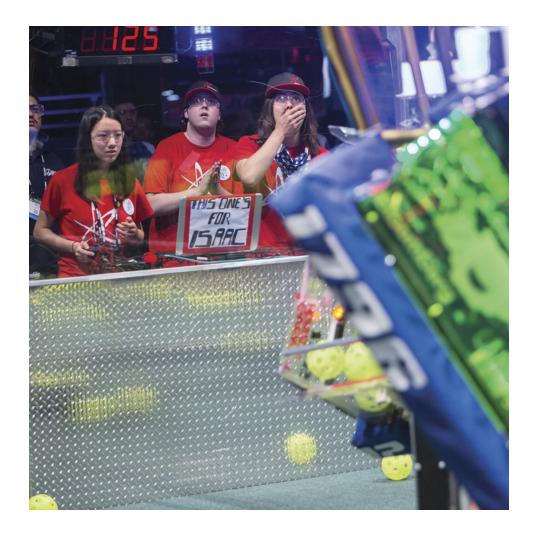
80 District Events; 10 State/District Championships; 55 Regional Events; FIRST Robotics Competition Championship for over 800 participating teams in Houston and St. Louis.

## Noteworthy

For the first time, four human players on the field became an integral part of game play. Our first international Chairman's Award winner, Team 3132 "Thunder Down Under" of Australia, joined Team 2614 "MARS" as shining examples of the FIRST community.

IRST STEAMWORKS<sup>SM</sup> invited two adventure clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long distance race. Each three-team alliance scored points and prepared to take flight by building steam pressure, gathering materials to start the rotors, and boarding robots onto their airships.







# Finding community and thriving

#### **JAWANN ODUMODU**

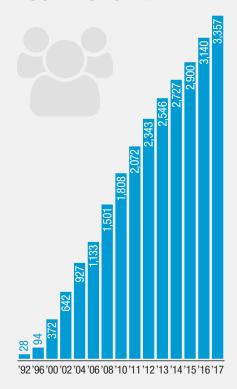
FIRST Robotics Competition Team 66 "Grizzly Robotics" Ypsilanti STEMM Middle College, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Ypsilanti STEMM Middle College is a five-year dual-enrollment high school in Michigan founded around the principles of FIRST and its robust afterschool FIRST Robotics Competition program, "Grizzly Robotics." In August 2016, the school, Grizzly Robotics, and the University of Michigan's Michigan Bicentennial Archive (M-BARC) entered into a three-year partnership to build a prototype of a satellite as a part of a United Launch Alliance CubeSat Grant.

Jawann Odumodu and his teammate, Orlando Garrett, were selected to build the satellite prototype. "It was hard. We spent hours and hours and even our whole spring break at the school every day," Jawann said. It was also a dramatic turnaround for Jawann, who the previous year had struggled to focus in school following a family tragedy.

After a mentor encouraged him to join Grizzly Robotics, which also included after-school homework supervision, Jawann improved his GPA from a 1.0 to 3.0 average - and his interest in robotics caught fire, leading to the Cubesat opportunity. Jawann, who is considering a career in robotics or medicine, looks forward to seeing a satellite he helped build launched into space.

### Team Growth



What I really liked about FIRST is that no matter how you're doing, you're always proud of yourself. They always make you feel happy, that you're welcome."

- Jawann Odumodu, Student, Grizzly Robotics

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Dean Kamen, John Bettag, Susie Mathieu, Jim Kiske, and Bert Vescolani (four members of the St. Louis Local Organizing Committee for the 2011-2017 FIRST Championship).

Each year, the Founder's Award is presented by FIRST Founder Dean Kamen to an organization or individual for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of FIRST. In 2017, the award was presented to the St. Louis Local Organizing Committee for their dedication to making FIRST Championship and FIRST programs in St. Louis, Missouri, a success.

For the past seven years, the Committee worked tirelessly to welcome thousands of students, mentors, coaches, volunteers, and spectators to the FIRST Championship, while continuing to grow FIRST programs in the region. Through the work of the Committee, St. Louis expanded from hosting one FIRST Robotics Competition Regional event in 2010, to hosting over 60 events across all FIRST programs in 2017.

Susie Mathieu, who accepted the award on behalf of the Committee, recognized the lasting impression FIRST has made on the heart of the city. Mathieu also thanked the St. Louis area sponsors and community, whose support was instrumental in making FIRST programs more accessible.

As FIRST Championship moves to new cities, St. Louis has established a special place in FIRST history, and the ripple effects of the city's continued partnership with FIRST will build a brighter future for generations to come.

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### Developing a Strong STEM Community



The Woodie Flowers Award recognizes mentors who inspire their students to understand the challenges, opportunities, and satisfaction involved in the discipline of engineering and design. In 2017, it was awarded to FIRST Robotics Competition mentor Glenn Lee.

A former electrical engineer, Lee began teaching at Waialua High and Intermediate School in Waialua, Hawai'i in 1994. In 1999, Lee co-founded FIRST Robotics Competition Team 359, "Hawai'ian Kids," the first robotics-related program in the state. He believes robotics is a catalyst for opportunity and has inspired hundreds of students by sharing his knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Yearlong, Lee and Team 359 spread the mission and reach of FIRST. In Hawai'i, they mentor local teams and have worked with Hawai'ian legislators to expand access to FIRST programs and create STEM opportunities. Lee has also worked as an ambassador to expand FIRST Robotics Competition programs in China, Australia, and Japan. He embodies Team 359's motto: "it's not about winning ... it's about teamwork, commitment, and responsibility!"

Lee is described by his students as the linchpin for Team 359. He is a small part of the overall function of the team, but also one of the most vital, holding together hundreds of FIRST youth, families, mentors, and colleagues from around the world.

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19% Doctorate



of alumni still involved in FIRST:

26% are mentor/coaches

18% volunteer at events

15% volunteer (other)

FIRST Alumni gained skills and attitudes needed in today's workforce:

90% Problem Solving Skills

90% Teamwork

**87%** Innovative Thinking

85% Creative Thinking

85% Perseverance

79% Leadership

FIRST strengthened post-high school success:

83% more confident in leadership roles

78% more confident in time management

74% more prepared for college courses

72% gained access to mentors and peers in STEM



College majors:\*

54% Engineering

32% Computers/Programming

22% Science

11% Math



of all alumni:



are in STEM fields





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#### 2017 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE GLOBAL INNOVATION AWARD

### Young Inventors Solving Problems in their Communities



Across the FIRST Progression of Programs, team members are encouraged to ask questions, challenge themselves, and follow their own spark of innovation to improve the world around them. Divergent thinking and community outreach are the norm, not the exception. Using robotics competitions as the vehicle, FIRST is inspiring the next generation of leaders, builders, and dreamers to solve problems in their communities.

#### 2017 FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award

The FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award is a competition designed to showcase the real-world, innovative solutions that FIRST LEGO League teams create as a result of their Project.

In its seventh year, the 2017 FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award celebrated the inventions FIRST LEGO League teams created to improve how humans interact with animals during the ANIMAL ALLIES<sup>SM</sup> season. The competition asks teams to consider possible barriers to implementation, document the evaluation of their invention, and validate their design with professionals and gives teams a way to build critical skills in these areas.

"The Hydrators" from Oakville, Ontario, Canada, took the top prize – a \$20,000 cash award - with their H<sub>2</sub>O Post (Horses Hydrating Outside), an automated water post that monitors the amount of water horses drink. The post and trough monitor water consumption by using chips implanted in the horse's naval cavity. The data is collected through a RFID reader and is sent to the horse's owner through an app.

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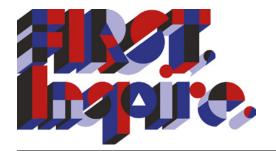
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MONTANA Allison Banfield Montana State University

NEW JERSEY Vince Frascella Patricia Frascella

NEW HAMPSHIRE Frank Grossman

NEW YORK CITY Norm Sutaria

NORTH CAROLINA Dr. Kory Bennett

OREGON Cathy Swider

Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program (ORTOP)

PENNSYLVANIA
Dave Hackett

TEXAS – DALLAS/FORT WORTH Dave Davis

College of Engineering University of Texas at Arlington TEXAS – LUBBOCK Alan Barhorst Dina Barhorst Texas Tech University

TEXAS - SAN ANTONIO Megan Clark SASTEMIC

UTAH

VIRGINIA

Dana Dellinger Weber State University

Maureen Carley

WASHINGTON

Gary Major

Adrienne Rime

WISCONSIN
Julianne Pickering
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

WEST VIRGINIA Todd Ensign

West Virginia Robotics Alliance

WYOMING Shannon Fischer Natrona County School District

2016-2017 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

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

Australia

Macquarie University

Canada ONTARIO

FIRST Robotics Canada

ALBERTA

FIRST Robotics Society (FRS)

China

China Urban Youth Robot Alliance (CUYRA)

Israel

FIRST Israel

Mexico

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

**United States** 

ARIZONA AZFirst

ALABAMA FIRST in Alabama

ARKANSAS Arkansas FIRST

COLORADO Colorado*FIRST* 

FLORIDA

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

GEORGIA

Georgia FIRST Robotics Inc.

**HAWAI**'I

Friends of Hawaii Robotics

IDAHO

Rocky Mountain Robotics

ILLINOIS

FIRST Illinois Robotics

INDIANA

Indiana*FIRST* 

LOUISIANA FIRST Louisiana-Mississippi

**MICHIGAN** 

FIRST in Michigan (FiM)

MID-ATLANTIC REGION FIRST Mid-Atlantic

MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY KC STEM Alliance

MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS Saint Louis Science Center

NEVADA FIRST Nevada

NEW ENGLAND

NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK - LONG ISLAND School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI)

NORTH CAROLINA FIRST North Carolina

оню

Ohio Aerospace Institute

OREGON

Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP)

SOUTH CAROLINA
Palmetto Partners for Science
and Technology

TEXAS FIRST in Texas

**UTAH** FIRST Utah

VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON DC FIRST Chesapeake

WASHINGTON FIRST Washington



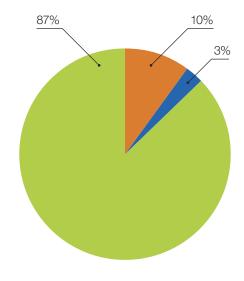
## nancials

Our programs' participation growth and mission successes continued once again in fiscal year 2017. We continue to have relatively balanced growth in both operating revenues and expenses, including additional investments in our Youth Protection Program, Information Technology, Program Evaluations, Diversity & Inclusion Program, and our Education Initiative. Contributions remained strong, as many individuals, small businesses, corporations - including over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies - and foundations maintained or increased their support, while many new sponsors joined FIRST. This contributed support provided very meaningful experiences to approximately a half-million youth engaged worldwide in the FIRST Progression of Programs.

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



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



- Team services & growth of programs
- G&A expenses
- Fundraising costs

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITES	JUNE 30, 2017	JUNE 30, 201
Revenues and other support:		
Program registration fees	\$ 28,433,710	\$ 26,625,170
Contributions and grants	14,720,452	15,760,543
Other income, net of expenses of \$102,065 in 2017 and \$98,515 in 2016	1,313,487	934,573
Special event income, net of expenses of \$395,911 in 2017 and \$434,286 in 2016	529,054	483,854
Net assets released from restrictions	27,339,944	22,253,338
Total revenues (losses) and other support	72,336,647	66,057,48
Expenses:		
FIRST Robotics Competition	43,886,704	38,649,008
FIRST LEGO League and FIRST LEGO League Jr.	9,056,033	7,097,363
FIRST Tech Challenge	8,339,600	8,590,482
Net cost of building space occupied by unrelated not-for-profit organizations	268,304	257,648
General, administrative and supporting services, and fundraising	8,849,470	8,584,578
Operation of FIRST facilities	417,706	416,527
Depreciation	718,742	604,220
Total expenses	71,536,559	64,199,820
Operating surplus	800,088	1,857,65

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	JUNE 30, 2017	JUNE 30, 2016
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents*	16,612,801	17,029,618
Short-term investments*	10,750,000	11,000,000
Pledges, receivables, program supply inventory, and other assets	15,572,532	12,684,582
Net property, plant, and equipment	5,294,793	5,060,032
Total assets, end of year	48,230,126	45,774,232

Liabilities and net assets:		
Total liabilities, end of year	4,391,581	3,095,896
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	25,434,899	24,634,811
Temporarily restricted	18,403,646	18,043,525
Total net assets, end of year	43,838,545	42,678,336
Total liabilities and net assets, end of year	\$ 48,230,126	\$ 45,774,232

For each of the two fiscal years summarized above, FIRST received unmodified (unqualified) opinions from its independent auditor, BerryDunn.

The financial information presented here is condensed and does not include the value of all donated services and materials. Audited Financial Statements (AFS) are readily available on the website at <a href="www.firstinspires.org">www.firstinspires.org</a> under "About/Annual" Report." Certain amounts reported for 2016 have been restated. For details, please refer to the accompanying notes which are an integral part of the AFS, at the above web address

<sup>\*</sup>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, 2017, is equivalent to approximately four months of FIRST operating expenses.

## \_eadership

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Myron (Mike) E. Ullman, III

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United States Senator **New Hampshire** 

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Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

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LEGO® Education

**David Lavery** 

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President

**FIRST** 

**FIRST** 

**FIRST** 

Terry Durkin Vice President, Finance

Erica Fessia Vice President, Field Operations

Mark Giordono

Vice President, Development **FIRST** 

Mark Greenlaw

Vice President, Strategy and Impact **FIRST** 

Listing current as of June 30, 2018

## 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









Impact BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Mission

To inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, 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

200 Bedford Street ■ Manchester, NH 03101 ■ 800.871.8326



FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

