FIRST® is about changing our culture... for the better. More than 20 years ago, Dean Kamen, a pioneering inventor, saw a culture where celebrities and sports stars were celebrated and revered, and scientists and engineers were not. He believed that the world’s future would depend on getting more kids from every background interested in and turned on to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) so that they might seek education and careers in these fields. With the help of many, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was established as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity with the mission to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting, Mentor-based robotics and research programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills; inspire innovation; and foster self-confidence, team-building, and leadership.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2012 Season Highlights

YOU CAN HELP THE CHANGE CONTINUE
Learn the full FIRST story and its phenomenal growth path at www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms

Today, even the worlds of entertainment and professional sports are rushing in to celebrate what FIRST is accomplishing and to help spread the word.
Teams explore today’s scientific challenges, then present their research using a LEGO® model with moving parts and a “Show-Me” poster.

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

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

Mentored by professional engineers, teams compete with 120-pound robots of their own design in this varsity Sport for the Mind™, combining the excitement of sport with the rigor of science and technology.
Over two decades ago, the FIRST® organization came together to help change a world where the values of young people were skewed toward entertainment and sports. Our goal was, and still is, to create a world where science and technology is recognized and celebrated. We imagine a world where young people can be exposed to the fun and excitement of science and technology in hopes that they choose it as a career path, becoming tomorrow’s so very needed technological leaders.

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

It takes an active and engaged community to make these changes. What can you do? Volunteer locally. Become a Mentor. Help raise funds. Sponsor a team. Commit your company’s time, people, and resources. Help spread the word wherever you can. With your help and support, we hope to see FIRST flourish in all of our schools and community organizations. Our world desperately needs the next generation of inspired scientists and engineers that FIRST can help produce.

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

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

Cooperator®
Compete like crazy, but also help the other teams.

Sport for the Mind™
What you say when someone asks, “What’s FIRST?”

Gracious Professionalism®
What every FIRST team practices: respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you learned.

Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder
Walter P. Havenstein, FIRST Chairman
A Work of Art in Progress

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As of publication, Berry is majoring in Graphic Communications at Palomar College, San Marcos, CA.
Accomplishments »
18,000 6-9 year olds participated on 2,985 teams from 50 U.S. states and 8 countries to celebrate curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork.

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

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

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

Lisa Gaye
Parent Volunteer, “PS11 LEGO LEADERS”
Manhattan, NY

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

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

Led
Jr.FLL graduates into formation of a school-based FLL team for enhanced skill-building with real robots.
Accomplishments »
Approximately 183,000 kids on 18,323 teams from more than 60 countries participated in this season’s Challenge.

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

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

Elizabeth Worsham
FIRST Alumna; Freshman, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Read Elizabeth’s inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/elizabeth-worsham

Offered
$60,000 in FIRST Scholarships, an accomplishment she attributes to “just having fun”

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

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

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

Elizabeth Worsham
FIRST Alumna; Freshman, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Read Elizabeth’s inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/elizabeth-worsham
Vivian Stepp
FTC Alumna; Sophomore, Georgia Tech

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

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

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

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

Vivian Stepp
FTC Alumna; Sophomore, Georgia Tech

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

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

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

Read Vivian’s inspiring profile at » www.usfirst.org/vivian-stepp
Accomplishments »
59,000 high-school students on 2,343 teams from 12 countries; eligible for nearly $15 million in college scholarships from 154 providers

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

Noteworthy »
The season kicked off with video greetings from Stephen Colbert, former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, will.i.am, and other celebrities

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

Luther Banner
FRC Alumnus; Freshman, MIT

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

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

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

Created
FLL mentoring program in his hometown; developed FLL teams at six middle schools; named to FIRST Dean’s List
In addition to our 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 to FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST LEGO League, and Junior FIRST LEGO League events. FIRST could not achieve the impact it does without this tremendous support.

FIRST thanks its Supporters and has made every effort to ensure complete and accurate listings. If we’ve made an error, please accept our sincere apology, and let us know at donations@usfirst.org.
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2012 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDERS

2012 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

FIRST offers many educational opportunities. In 2012, all FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team members were eligible for over 741 scholarship opportunities, valued at $15 million. FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) participants were eligible for $10 million of these funds.

The majority of FIRST scholarships are provided by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses, with the remainder provided by corporations and professional associations for use at any school. On page 22 are listed 154 FIRST Scholarship Providers, including 19 that are new this year.

Some FIRST scholarships are awarded for specific majors such as engineering, math, science, computer science, or technology. Others can be used for any course of study. The values of scholarships vary from under $1,000 to full tuition (valued at $160,000). Most are renewable annually if the student maintains the required academic standards.

FIRST Scholarship Recipients:

- Manufacturing and Technology (38 Students)
- Science and Technology (19 Students)
- Engineering (27 Students)
- Math and Science (32 Students)
- Computer Science (14 Students)
- Business and Entrepreneurship (11 Students)
- Agriculture and Environmental Science (5 Students)
- Other Majors (4 Students)

Sample Scholarships:

- $20,000 Marston Foundation Scholarship
- $15,000 United Technologies Corporation Scholarship
- $10,000 National 4-H Council Scholarship
- $5,000 Society of Women Engineers Scholarship

Our thanks to our FIRST Scholarship Providers for their generosity and support of our students and their future endeavors!
A list of FTC Team Sponsors is available online at
www.usfirst.org/sponsors/first-tech-challenge-team-sponsors
Fundraising costs
G&A expenses
programs & growth of Team services

Total liabilities and net assets, end of year $33,081,122 $29,259,691

Total net assets, end of year 28,691,688 25,244,643

Net assets:
Total assets, end of year 33,081,122 29,259,691
Net property, plant, and equipment 3,663,438 3,579,012
Total liabilities 4,389,434 4,015,048
Liabilities and net assets:
Pledges, receivables, and other assets 7,747,006 8,183,290
Short-term investments* 8,476,963 6,559,528
Cash and cash equivalents* 13,484,985 10,437,911
Total revenues and other support 50,461,022 41,310,390

Operating surplus 1,976,120 1,346,623
Operation of building 334,865 192,786
General, administrative and fundraising 6,339,921 4,677,870
Net assets released from restrictions 13,099,941 11,007,189
Special project, net of expenses 42,001 25,017
Other income 905,849 429,425
Rental income, net of expenses 137,050 158,845
Contributions and grants 19,529,408 15,615,389
Program registration fees $ 16,746,773 $ 14,074,525
Total expenses:
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For each of the two fiscal years summarized above, FIRST received an unqualified opinion from its independent auditors, BerryDunn.

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

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

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

Statement of Activities
June 30, 2012
June 30, 2011

Revenue from services & grants of $4,053,048

G&A expenses
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FIRST participants are significantly more likely to attend college, twice as likely to go on to major in science or engineering, and three times as likely to major specifically in engineering.

VISION

“To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.”

Dean Kamen, Founder

MISSION

To inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

IMPACT

FIRST participants are significantly more likely to attend college, twice as likely to go on to major in science or engineering, and three times as likely to major specifically in engineering.