Our founder, inventor Dean Kamen, has been saying it for over 25 years—

“Our mission is about more than building robots; we are working to inspire and change a culture.”

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) — a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity whose mission is to help develop our students into tomorrow’s science and technology leaders and innovators — uses young people’s interest in, and fascination with, robots as the “honey” to draw them into a progression of fun, engaging robotics and research programs. In the process, they learn the importance of team building and mutual respect, gain self-confidence, and develop crucial leadership and life skills, as well as master much-in-demand STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) knowledge. They are transforming into tomorrow’s leaders.

Kids building robots is a clever disguise for a rapidly expanding community devoted to altering our culture into one where scientists and engineers are celebrated and revered on the same level as athletes and celebrities. Our unified goal is to open doors for all kids so that they may discover new interests and pathways, leading them to careers in science and engineering that they might never have considered.

We are extremely proud of the impact FIRST® is making on this cultural change. Leaders in government, media, education, and even the entertainment world, are recognizing FIRST® as a genuine game-changer in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students. They are eagerly embracing our programs because they have witnessed for themselves that the essence of FIRST® is More Than Robots™.

Will you join us in making a difference?

Learn the full FIRST® story — our vision, reach, programs, and events — at www.firstinspires.org

“When I gave this thing the name FIRST®, I said ‘It’s all about inspiration. If we don’t change what they’re inspired by, the world will.’ When I thought about that, it never occurred to me that one of the people who would end up being inspired is me. By all of you … And I hope that you all inspire each other.”

FIRST® Founder, Dean Kamen
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.
To the uninitiated, FIRST may seem like kids just having fun with robots. To those of us devoting more than 25 years to this work, and to our millions of past and present participants, reality is quite the opposite. FIRST is so much More Than Robots™.

Through the generosity of hundreds of thousands of Volunteers, Mentors, and Sponsors, FIRST offers young people the world over the opportunity to explore, learn, work as a cohesive team, take on and solve incredible challenges, and develop personal and professional skills that put them on paths to a successful adult life. Robots and research involving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are what they do. Tomorrow’s leaders are what they become.

Moving into our second quarter-century, we can proudly look back to see how far we have come since our humble, 28-team beginning in 1989. In 2015, we served more than 39,000 teams composed of approximately 360,000 kids, ages 6 through 18, in over 80 countries. Along their journey, incredible adults gave more than 13 million hours, last year alone, of their precious time to guide and support them, filling over 190,000 Volunteer roles. These astounding numbers continue to grow, in part because we can cite the concrete impact our Programs have on our students: more than 75 percent of FIRST Alumni are studying for or working in STEM careers, and female FIRST participants are four times more likely to study STEM subjects.* We invite you to be inspired at www.firstinspires.org/about/impact.

If we are to continue our growth trajectory, reaching out to ever more students in need of inspiration, 21st-century work skills, and life-changing discovery — including those in underrepresented and underserved populations — we need your help. What can you do? Commit your organization’s resources and people. Sponsor one or more teams. On a personal level, become a Mentor, raise funds, or volunteer in your community. Every contribution counts and every volunteer hour is cherished.

We cannot adequately thank our Strategic Partners, Founding Sponsors, Sponsors, Mentors, Volunteers, participating School and Program Administrators, Parents, and Teachers. These inspirational people and organizations selflessly offer their experience, knowledge, time, and resources in the most creative ways. We salute you!

Kids who dream big, who like to tinker, who need a boost in self-confidence, who yearn for an inclusive, non-judgmental environment to discover their own talents, who want a chance to make something of themselves, need all of us working together. We believe the opportunities offered by FIRST should be accessible to every student and belong in every school. Will you join with us to make that dream come true?

When I hear the phrase “More Than Robots,” I start thinking about all the ways that FIRST is “more.”

**More accessibility** Regardless of social or economic circumstances, we offer learning and discovery opportunities to youth everywhere, with a special emphasis to include girls and youth from diverse backgrounds.

**More connections** FIRST participants, young and old alike, build friendships, as well as social and professional networks, that enhance their lives now and provide life-changing influences and direction into the future.

**More growth** Despite our significant reach, our quest is to provide even more opportunities to become involved in FIRST as a student, Mentor, Sponsor, or Volunteer. Expanding access to our programs in every way possible is our top priority.

**More preparedness** Today’s students need sophisticated education that includes more than just codified knowledge. They need 21st century workforce skills. We’re proud to be a leader in developing collaborative creative competence in our young people, giving them a better chance for a productive and successful future.

FIRST touches more people in more ways than any other program I know — kids, who find a safe, fun place where they can develop and belong; students, whose lives are changed because they discovered new opportunities; Mentors, whose lives are enriched by working with engaged youth; grateful parents, whose children earn college scholarship support.

In 2015, we had many more milestones to celebrate, among them the formation of new Strategic Alliances with the American Society for Engineering Education, The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the National Center for Women & Information Technology. Our FIRST Scholarships program grew to over $22 million in awards made available by nearly 200 Scholarship Providers in the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Mexico. We’ve launched an initiative that will further embed inclusion within the FIRST organization and community and improve the diversity of program participants.

In addition, we continue to learn more about the impact of our programs on participants. Findings from the second year of a longitudinal study conducted by Brandeis University* show that FIRST has positive impacts on team members’ interest, knowledge, and identity in STEM, as well as their interest in STEM careers. While both boys and girls benefit from participation in FIRST, the positive impact on STEM outcomes is even greater for girls. These results support our belief that FIRST is playing a critical role in inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I gratefully thank everyone who has given their time, talent, resources, and support to help us reach even more deserving kids than we ever thought possible. I challenge us all to recommit our efforts to reach out to the millions more who have yet to experience the FIRST opportunity.

* Full report: [www.firstinspires.org/about/impact](http://www.firstinspires.org/about/impact)
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

**FIRST is honored to welcome three long-time supporters as new Strategic Partners:** Bechtel Corporation, The Dow Chemical Company, and Qualcomm Incorporated. Thank you!

Outstanding FIRST students were recognized at the White House Science Fair: FIRST Robotics Competition Team 842 “Falcon Robotics” and Team 5594 “Team Crew”; Girl Scout troop FIRST LEGO League Jr. Team “Supergirls.”

A “first” for FIRST: FIRST Tech Challenge introduced a new, game-changing, mobile technology platform for their robot control.

The annual FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE® celebrated its fifth anniversary; semi-finalists presented at the FIRST Championship.

2015 FIRST Championship, presented by Qualcomm, expanded to multiple St. Louis venues, drew 41,000+ attendees (over 900 teams), and hosted the inaugural FIRST Innovation Faire, featuring tech demos, hands-on activities, giveaways, and fun for all ages.

**SlingShot,** a Paul Lazarus documentary, profiles Dean Kamen’s quest to bring clean water to the planet, and his devotion to introducing students to the life-altering career possibilities of science and technology through FIRST.

**Spare Parts,** a movie starring Jamie Lee Curtis, George Lopez, Carlos PenaVega, and Marisa Tomei, chronicles FIRST students’ famous underdog robotic victory against college teams and features robots built by real FIRST teams.

**FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION**
Ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12)

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 rigors of science and technology.

**FIRST TECH CHALLENGE**
Ages 12-18 (Grades 7-12)

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

**FIRST LEGO LEAGUE**
Ages 9-18 (Grades 4-8)

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

**FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JR.**
Ages 6-9 (Grades K-3)

Teams explore today’s scientific challenges, then present their research using a LEGO® model with motorized parts and a Show Me poster.

A progression of four programs for ages 6 to 18; gets young people involved early, developing skills and building confidence, keeping them engaged through high school.
Yohance Salimu

At the 2015 Showcase Presentation during the FIRST Championship in St. Louis, Mentor Tim Wright introduced a young man from an impoverished Los Angeles neighborhood, who rose to overcome great odds as “a born leader.” FIRST Alum Yohance Salimu is so much more than a leader. He is an inspiration to all.

Currently a Cadet 1st Class at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Yohance had it tougher than so many other kids in South LA’s Crenshaw High School. “My father had a lot of kids, and he had health issues and my mother had mental health issues, so my brother and I became homeless.”

That’s when Tim and teacher, Urban Reyes, invited Yohance to join their FIRST Robotics Competition team. “Tim even offered me a place to stay at night and food when I was hungry.”

Yohance excelled on the team, becoming Captain. Tim offered him an internship at Aerospace Corporation where he worked. Yohance embraced the opportunity, using his earnings to pull his family out of a homeless shelter and onto their feet.

“FIRST helped develop my leadership skills, and the experience helped me gain admission to the Air Force Academy. I am the man I am today thanks to Tim Wright, Urban Reyes, and FIRST. I one day hope to mentor kids from my community.”

Yohance Salimu

1989 Year FIRST is founded to excite young people about science and technology

28 Number of teams competing in the inaugural 1992 FIRST season

Sport for the Mind™
The answer to “What’s FIRST?”

14% Growth in number of FIRST teams over 2014

50 U.S. States / 80+ Countries A growing global phenomenon

Coopertition®
“Competing teams help and cooperate with each other” (a FIRST core value)

$22 million+ Scholarship funds available

Gracious Professionalism®
“Respect for others, being a good sport, sharing what you’ve learned” (another FIRST core value)

Limitless Opportunities for a meaningful experience
Accomplishments
Approximately 34,000 6-9 year-olds participated on 5,653 teams in 23 countries, celebrating curiosity, imagination, discovery, and teamwork.

Competitions
Nearly 250 regional Expos; Junior FIRST LEGO League World Festival Expo in St. Louis.

Noteworthy
The Junior FIRST LEGO League World Festival Expo was extended to three days, and grew significantly to include 60 teams from five countries.

The Challenge
Students turned into detectives and researchers to gather information about how and where learning happens, then built LEGO® models and created Show Me posters depicting their journey of discovery.

“To see these young kids so interested in helping at this level was amazing.”

JULIE WEISS, Coach
“Determined Dolphins”

More Than Learning:
FIRST LEGO League Jr. Team 2814 “Determined Dolphins” Castle Pines, Colorado

Researched the plight of dolphins caught and often injured in fishing nets, including Winter, a dolphin with a prosthetic tail, featured in the movie Dolphin Tale.

Developed ideas for prostheses to help dolphins and other injured animals.

Contributed their own money to help fund a year’s worth a special care for Winter at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (FL).

*The Junior FIRST LEGO League (Jr.FLL) program was renamed FIRST LEGO League Jr. in November, 2015.

More Than Learning: FLL Jr. 2014 Team 2814
“Determined Dolphins” Castle Pines, Colorado

Researched the plight of dolphins caught and often injured in fishing nets, including Winter, a dolphin with a prosthetic tail featured in the movie Dolphin Tale.

Developed ideas for prostheses to help dolphins and other injured animals.

Contributed their own money to help fund a year’s worth of special care for Winter at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (FL).
The Challenge
Teams researched and shared their innovative solutions to improve the learning experience, and used a team-designed autonomous robot, programmed with LEGO® MINDSTORMS®, to complete “missions” representing how we gather knowledge and skills.

"It's truly rewarding when you finally see your team embrace everything you've taught them, then turn around and teach it to other students."

CHRISTINE TORRE, Coach
"The Braille Boys & Annie"

Accomplishments
Approximately 210,000 9-16 year-olds* on 26,044 teams from over 80 countries participated in this season’s Challenge.

*Ages vary by country

Competitions
1,124 Qualifying Tournaments, 145 Championship Tournaments, 4 Open Championships;
FIRST LEGO League World Festival in St. Louis

Noteworthy
The 2014-2015 FLL WORLD CLASS™ season marked the fifth anniversary of the FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award, presented by XPRIZE®, and introduced live judging for 20 semi-finalist teams at the FIRST Championship.

Researched the effectiveness of Braille tools through the National Federation of the Blind; discovered that 90 percent of blind children never learn Braille.

Invented Insta-Braille®, a system that automatically “speaks” a letter, number, or word when a Braille symbol is touched, allowing a visually impaired person to learn Braille without the help of a sighted person.

Honored as one of two runners-up in the FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE®; used prize money to start a FIRST LEGO League team with visually impaired students.

More Than Determined:
FIRST LEGO League Team 4678
"The Braille Boys & Annie"
Cumming, Georgia

Read The Braille Boys & Annie’s full profile at www.firstinspires.org/braille-boys-and-annie

Invented Insta-Braille®, a system that automatically “speaks” a letter, number, or word when a Braille symbol is touched, allowing a visually impaired person to learn Braille without the help of a sighted person.

Honored as one of two runners-up in the FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE®; used prize money to start a FIRST LEGO League team with visually impaired students.

Team Growth

Grades 4-8 (ages 9 to 16)
**The Challenge**
Teams designed, programmed, and operated robots to release a cascade of rolling, bouncing balls, score points dropping the balls into rolling tubes, and transport the tubes up a ramp to a scoring platform — all while racing against the clock!

**Accomplishments**
Approximately 45,000 participants (ages 12-18, grades 7-12) on 4,445 teams from 16 countries; eligible for over $16 million in college scholarships

**Competitions**
388 Meets, League Championships, and Qualifying Tournaments; 63 Championship Tournaments; 4 Super-Regional Championship Tournaments; FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in St. Louis

**Noteworthy**
FIRST Tech Challenge announced the new Android robotics platform to be used in the 2015-2016 season. Now teams will have the power of Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ technology and add “App Developer” to their skill sets

**Achieved**
top honors at recent FIRST Championships, including Inspire Award (2015), Rockwell Collins Innovate Award and Promote Award (2014)

**Selected**
by FIRST to help compile an in-depth wiring guide to assist other teams with the technical aspects of outfitting a robot, following an impressive conference presentation

**Earned**
widespread recognition as FIRST ambassadors in Alaska and beyond; mentored elementary students; sponsored FIRST LEGO League events; fostered connections with many diverse teams at the Asia Pacific Invitational in Sydney, Australia; enthusiastically embraced the FIRST “culture of opportunity”

**When these FIRST kids from around the world work together to solve a problem, they are unstoppable.”**
SHARON JOHNSON, Coach
“Schrödinger’s Hat”

**More Than Local:**
FIRST Tech Challenge Team 3595
“Schrödinger’s Hat”
Fairbanks, Alaska

Read Schrödinger’s Hat’s full profile at
www.firstinspires.org/schrodingers-hat
Accomplishments
Approximately 72,500 high-school students on 2,900 teams from 19 countries; eligible for over $22 million in college scholarships

Competitions
48 District Events; 5 State/District Championships, 56 Regional Events; FIRST Robotics Competition Championship in St. Louis

Noteworthy
Inaugural FIRST Robotics Competition Australia Regional Event held in Sydney; FIRST Robotics Competition Championship expanded from 400 to 600 teams, and from 4 to 8 sub-divisions

Contributions
Over 6,000 hours of community service (tutoring, volunteering, etc.) annually to help make a difference in their underserved community of South Los Angeles

Established
A partnership with School in a Bottle to help advance technology and construct environmentally-friendly schools for children in Guatemala

Awarded
The prestigious Chairman’s Award at the 2015 FIRST Championship for being leaders in transforming their community and spreading their passion for science and technology

The Challenge
Competing Alliances guided team-designed robots to stack Totes on Scoring Platforms, cap those stacks with Recycling Containers, and properly dispose of Litter (pool noodles). All game pieces were reusable or recyclable at the end of the season.

“We call it SHAREing, which means Showing How Awesome a Robotics Education can be.”

DARRYL NEWHOUSE, Mentor
“The Wolverines”

More Than Self:
FIRST Robotics Competition Team 597 “The Wolverines” South Los Angeles, California

Read the Wolverine’s full profile at www.firstinspires.org/wolverines
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 FIRST LEGO League Jr. teams and events. FIRST could not achieve the impact it does without this tremendous support.
In 2015, as part of the FIRST Scholarship Program, nearly 200 Scholarship Providers made available over $22 million in scholarship opportunities to FIRST Robotics Competition team members. FIRST Tech Challenge participants were eligible for $16 million of these funds. The majority of FIRST scholarships are made available by colleges or universities for enrollment at their campuses; the remainder is made available by corporations, associations, or foundations for use at a selection of schools. The 2015 FIRST Scholarships are listed on pages 33-34.

To learn more about the FIRST Scholarship Program, or to make FIRST Scholarships available from your institution, please visit: www.firstinspires.org/scholarships
Abele relentlessly focuses on preserving FIRST values and promoting the concept that FIRST is about much more Than Robots™. “It’s not just STEM. It’s not just Gracious Professionalism. It’s the integration of all of that,” says Abele.
2015 Woodie Flowers Award Winner Puts Students FIRST

FIRST Robotics Competition Mentor, Mark Lawrence, is the recipient of the 2015 Woodie Flowers Award, founded by Dr. William P. Murphy Jr. to recognize an outstanding engineer or teacher who best demonstrates excellence in teaching science, math, and creative design.

Lawrence joined FIRST in 2005 as a founding Mentor of Team 1816 “The Green Machine” of Edina, Minnesota, and is known for always putting students first. He tirelessly devotes his time to mentoring students, reads their emails before those of adult Mentors or Volunteers, and has helped countless young people — not only on Team 1816 — pursue their passions and plan their career paths.

Not content until all students across Minnesota have access to FIRST, Lawrence founded the Minnesota Regional Planning Committee, fueling exponential growth and ensuring over 50 percent of Minnesota high-school students now have the opportunity to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. He led the charge to make the program a state-sanctioned curriculum sport, with the same recognition as football and hockey, and works with other states to follow suit.

Lawrence pushes students and Mentors to achieve excellence and raises his expectations once they are met. The students call Lawrence “our most fervent and enthusiastic cheerleader. We can’t wait to see where he takes us in the future.”
Young Inventors

**The FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award presented by XPRIZE** Celebrated 5 Years

This award is designed to encourage and assist FIRST LEGO League teams to further develop their innovative solutions to real-world problems. For the first time this year, 20 Semi-Finalist teams presented their solutions to judges in person during the FIRST Championship in St. Louis. All teams were then inducted as Global Innovation Ambassadors, promising to continue their journey of innovation, share with their communities, and keep their spark of innovation lit.

The winner and two runners up were honored at a ceremony at the United States Patent and Trademark office in June, 2015.

**First Place winners for the FIRST LEGO League WORLD CLASS** season “Team Storm” of Terre Haute, Indiana

**Invention:**

The ROY G. BIV Math System is an app designed to improve the way students learn math concepts. This system keeps digits in place when math is performed, allowing students to easily spot flipped digits out of a rainbow color order.

**The FIRST Future Innovator Award sponsored by the Abbott Fund**

The FIRST Future Innovator Award launched this year with a new timeframe, allowing participation by more FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition teams in their off seasons. Through the invention of a unique solution, this award honors creativity and problem-solving. New this year is having teams apply their inventing skills to one of three chosen National Academy of Engineering’s Grand Challenges — access to clean water, advancing health informatics, or engineering the tools of scientific discovery.
A list of FIRST Tech Challenge Team Sponsors is available online at www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc/team-sponsors

**2015 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION SPONSORS**

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**2015 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION SPONSORS**

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## FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION SPONSORS

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**NASA**

**Cleaning Sponsor**:
The following key organizations and volunteers support the FIRST Tech Challenge Program in their respective regions:

**FEST Creative Engineering Education**

- **Republic of Korea**: Professor Kyung-Mihn Do, FEEST Creative Engineering Education Association (Founding and Expanding Science & Technology Organization)

- **Mexico**: Barbara Gómez de Navarro, Coordinadora, Delegación Yucatán, AS, Asociación (Feeling and Enjoying Science and Technology)

- **The Netherlands**: Lennart de Vries, Hoogheuvel College

- **Russia**: Maxim Petrov, Veloce Delta Foundation

**FIRST TECH CHALLENGE 2014-2015**

Volunteers in the field organize the FIRST TECH CHALLENGE 2014-2015 Association (Feeling and Enjoying Science and Technology) for students in grades 7-12.

**FIRST Robotics Competition**

The following organizations partner with FIRST to implement the FIRST Robotics Competition Program in a specified region:

**Australia**: Macquarie University

**Canada**: FIRST Robotics Canada

**Israel**: FIRST Israel

**Mexico**: Fundación Arca

**United States**: Arizona FIRST

**Arkansas**: AEROSpace Robotics

**Colorado**: FIRST Robotics Colorado

**Florida**: FIRST Robotics Education Foundation, Inc. (F(REF)

**Georgia**: GEorgia FIRST Robotics, Inc.

**Hawaii**: Hawai'i FIRST Robotics

**India**: Shanmugam, Indian School of Mines, Shimla Limited

**Indiana**: Rajen Malhotra, FIRST Robotics

**Iowa**: J. Scott McKay, University of Iowa

**Kansas**: Thomas Zawislak, ORTOP

**Kentucky**: Marshall Robinson, Kentucky Science and Technology Foundation

**Louisiana**: Dave Hackett, Texas – Houston

**Michigan**: Thomas Zawislak, Pennsylvania FIRST Robotics

**Minnesota**: Thomas Zawislak, Pennsylvania FIRST Robotics

**Missouri**: Thomas Zawislak, Pennsylvania FIRST Robotics

**New England**: New England FIRST Robotics

**New Mexico**: FIRST Robotics

**New York**: New York City FIRST Robotics

**North Carolina**: First Robotics

**Ohio**:FIRST Robotics

**Oregon**: FIRST Robotics

**Pennsylvania**: Dave Hackett, Texas – Houston

**Texas**: FIRST Robotics

**Vermont**: FIRST Robotics

**Washington**: FIRST Robotics

**Wisconsin**: FIRST Robotics

**West Virginia**: FIRST Robotics

**Wisconsin FIRST Robotics**: Washington

**Wyoming**: FIRST Robotics

**North Dakota**: FIRST Robotics

**Nebraska**: Nebraska 4-H Youth Development

**Oregon**: Ed Kuch, Oregon State University

**Pennsylvania**: First Robotics

**South Carolina**: FIRST Robotics

**South Dakota**: FIRST Robotics

**Tennessee**: FIRST Robotics

**Virginia**: FIRST Robotics

**Washington**: FIRST Robotics

**West Virginia**: FIRST Robotics
Program expansion and mission successes continued in fiscal year 2014-2015 with balanced growth in revenues and expenses, including additional investments in our Youth Protection Program, Information Technology, Program Evaluation, and new investment in our Diversity & Inclusion Program. 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 new Sponsors joined FIRST. This support provided meaningful experiences to more than 359,000 youth engaged 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 significant investments in infrastructure enhancements, including those noted above:

FIRST achieved its tenth 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% of the U.S. charities evaluated by Charity Navigator.

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

*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, 2015, is equivalent to approximately four months of FIRST operating expenses.

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 www.firstsystems.org under “About/Annual Report.” For details, please refer to the accompanying notes, which are an integral part of the AFS, at the above web address.
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

MORE THAN ROBOTS™ FIRST participation is proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, inspire them to become leaders and innovators, and enhance their 21st century work-life skills.

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