

## Chairman's Award - Team 2576

[Print](#)[Close](#)

2018 - Team 2576

### Team Number

2576

### Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Universidad Andres Bello/Robots Chile/Doosan Bobcat/Ferrital/Sabic Polymershapes/3M/Municipalidad de Quilicura/SOFOFA/Imprenta Estrella&Corporacion Corazon Tecnologico de Chile

### Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

Participating in the FIRST program means a big change in every student. We can prove it in our team where over the 80% stands out school; 90% is interested in any extracurricular class or event that improve their scientific knowledge; also, 90% is interested in college and studying STEM careers. The team captain was recognized as outstanding scientist in one of the most important college in our country. Alumni have been motivated in starting 2 FRC teams, increasing the FRC community in Chile.

### Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

To expand STEM in our community, aside from creating a corporation which supplies us with a juridical entity, we initiated one of our biggest projects. Thanks to the PAE project we could impact a total of +51.000 people, from which 11.000 were students; in addition creating 14 robotic communities. The students where given the opportunity to compete in VEX, FLL and to be in our FRC team. We've also assisted the newer FRC teams in our country and established video calls with foreign teams.

### Team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message

Apart from spreading information on our Facebook page, we also got to join forces with the famous South American magazine `-Condorito-`. After hearing our story they decided to create new characters that represent our members and mentors, so that throughout their story they invite kids of all age to take part of the technology in our country.

### Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other *FIRST* team members to emulate

For the United States teams we are an inspiration since we're from a country with low resources and difficult to get sponsorship, our team wants to expand FIRST in our country despite the fact that it's a very difficult job. Also, despite the fact that we haven't been taught robotics in school we can still achieve what the professional teams do with their robots.

**Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams**

We strive to spread the FIRST philosophy in our country by helping forming more FRC teams. We indeed managed to accomplish that, based on our initiatives of inviting organizations to send interns during our team season so they can apply the acquired knowledge into starting teams along the country during the next year. We also have mentors and alumnus that formed their own teams in their communities, such as Pizza Mecanica #5512, and keep constant communication with us.

**Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC)**

Due to the success of the FLL competitions in Chile, our members also wanted their schools to participate by obtaining FLL kits and being mentors of their own FLL teams. After this, thanks to our hard work visiting schools, and showing all the possibilities in robotics, We've managed to create 14 FLL teams in Chile. Also, many FLL alumnus are now part of our FRC team. This was another step we could make to motivate kids into science and bringing them closer to robotics to open new talents

**Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC) with progressing through the *FIRST* program**

We were able to expand the FLL community and install a FRC community in Chile and been working hard with the other two rookie teams by traveling and having a continuous communication. To help the other areas as of FRC and FLL we did workshops during all this season, teaching how to program, construct and strategies, we also talked about FIRST and the program's philosophy

**Describe how your team works with other *FIRST* teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced *FIRST* teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC teams)**

For the FLL tournament we attend to get-togethers and help explain the challenge and for the competitions our alumnus assists other teams as well as being referees. The members who started the FLL teams help throughout the season with programing and robotic workshops to inspire the kids with their FRC experience, but we don't necessarily have to be there in person to help, we also assist by video chatting with teams in and out of Chile, this helps build strong friendships.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Most of the Chilean companies don't sponsor something like robotics because for them it's unreal, but the ones that do, believe in us and as a result they have won our respect and friendship, the most importants are Universidad Andres Bello who has lended workspace for 7 years in return we hosted robotic events in the University's gym; Polymerland has sponsored us with many materials that help us build the robot and finally the districts where our team members live, they do what they can to help

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years**

We have a faithful and strong alliance with our sponsors. Every year they support us with diverse materials and financials that help us in the build season . Some of them have stayed for a long time like Universidad Andrés Bello, who gives us money and lends us their building for the build season and events and Robots Chile who we work alongside in almost every event showing our demo-bots to different schools and companies. They not only sponsor our robot but our future success as well.

**Describe how your team would explain what *FIRST* is to someone who has never heard of it**

FIRST is an adventure, a passion, an opportunity to compete against people from diverse countries, and get introduced into an international network. Not only do you have fun, but you meet people that share the same interest and see your team's work and effort on the field showing everyone what it's able to do. FIRST was created to prepare students for real life engineering situations, complete with tricky deadlines and unexpected challenges. The struggles you'll gain will improve your life.

**Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* judges, if any**

Last year our team was selected to represent Chile for the first time in the FIRST Global Challenge, before the competition they helped a team who were stuck at the airport befriending them at the end. During the competition they constantly helped the teams from Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Polonia who were there by giving mechanical and programing tips and cheering them on as they competed

**Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission.**

Valentina Sandoval

## Essay

Our team, Chilean Heart, has been an innovative team since its beginning, establishing ourselves as the first FRC team in Chile. We have proven to be a dedicated team at representing FIRST's two greatest philosophies, Gracious Professionalism and Cooperation with all our heart. Our name identifies our commitment to the values of FIRST and foremost to the values of a community searching for expansion, inviting young people to live the experience of being part of a team during their vacation by building a robot and to open new talents in different areas. While many young people enjoy a period of rest, we work hard, guided by our heart to fulfill the dream we foster every year; with 19 students from 12 different schools, 10 districts in 2 regions, and whom 46% are women, even though we are all from diverse backgrounds we are growing together in what we believe is the right direction as FIRST gave us its recognition through the years. We've been winners of many awards which celebrate different aspects of being an FRC team; The Judges, Team Spirit, Woodie Flowers Finalist, Gracious Professionalism, The Regional Chairman's and the Engineering Inspiration, proof of the determination that our team has had through the years.

All of this effort would be in vain was it not for the broadcasting of our hard work, as well as our appearance in press, radio, and television in many Chilean and international media. We've received calls from reporters that wish to know more about our work because the team has become an inspiration in the field of education in our country. In 2014, being conscious of this social recognition, as a team we decided to create a foundation that would let us represent in a better way the values of our work, the Corporación Corazón Tecnológico y Científico de Chile. The first two years in this project we focused on presenting at schools and spreading educational robotics through workshops. Our team spreads our educational model with a friendly working system inspired by the idea of "learning by doing". We reached over 12.000 middle school students from more than 40 distinctive schools, granting them a first-hand experience with robotics. Not only were the kids taught topics like science and technology, but they also learned communication skills like teamwork, innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership that will be key assets in their futures. In 2016 our focus was much more than giving robotics classes, it was about creating STEM communities, and sharing our knowledge of STEM which would aid in creating a strong base to form brand-new robotics teams and tournaments in Chile. The project was a success since we were able to create more than 36 robotics communities in Chile and last year we dedicated more time and effort into training over 40 teachers and 800 students by handing out robotics kits to a total of over 24 schools. This way, we have given them a new approach to appreciating what science and technology can really do, while also fortifying a strong base for their future. What we loved the most from this experience was the children's happiness and enthusiasm they expressed with such admirable and encouraging demeanors as they discovered that there were no caps on what they could achieve.

We might be in a country far from FRC regionals, a country that is self developing, where opportunities are scarce and where STEM isn't seen in schools. However, we wanted to change this reality so that new generations can access a better education and new opportunities. One of our greatest tools have been bringing new robotics tournaments to Chilean students, proving to be fundamental in the education of the participants while they have fun competing. Up until 2014, the only robotics tournaments in Chile were FLL and IRE (Educative Robotics Interscholastic Competition of the Universidad Andres Bello), which were being organized every year by members of our team. Nonetheless, our foundation brought to Chile the VEX tournament, giving students the chance to be part of a new and exciting experience which has attracted a multitude of interested people in the world of robotics. What started out as a practice tournament with 8 teams, has evolved into an official VEX tournament with 54 VEX teams in as little as 3 years. By providing schools VEX materials, training their teachers to master programming skills and hosting weekly practice events for the teams, we not only managed to consolidate a strong community, but we also set an example for companies, foundations, and organizations who were looking to STEM as the future of education in our country. We had successfully demonstrated that investing in robotics applied education programs will help shape the future of Chile. As shown when some of our members created a Chilean FIRST global team and competed this year.

Hosting new tournaments and putting all our efforts into the growth of FIRST in Chile is very important to us due to the fact that STEM communities seem to blossom from within. Therefore, all of our team members mentored 24 FLL teams and volunteer at the tournaments where half of the referees are our team alumni. Moreover, we have started and mentored 3 Chilean FRC teams (#4960, #4966 & #5512) and 1 FRC team in Long Beach (#4997) and the alumni of that team have even gone to start their own teams. We mentored all 4 teams throughout their rookie years. In addition, some of our members and alumnus started another FRC Chilean team this year (#6955).

As a team, we have faced many challenges and overcome obstacles, but hardly on our own. Our sponsors have been by our side, believing in us, helping us and contributing to our success as a whole. They have supported us ever since our beginnings playing an essential role in helping us to achieve our dreams. In return for their help during the build season, we offer them expositions, robotics classes, and STEM workshops `creating a lasting relationship with them. Certain companies like Polymerland, Universidad Andres Bello, IF, AguasLab, Aceros Otero, 3M, Homecenter and different municipal districts have never stopped being part of our journey.

**Essay - page 2**

Besides showing our performance in school activities and sponsor events, we've also created informative and lively experiences through exciting expositions. Our goal is to make robotics and technology available for everyone in the events that we attend or host. During each event, we let them interact with our demo-bot while we share our experience from competitions and the robots we construct during the build season. In addition to exposing them to robotics and learn about STEM, we also invite them to join the team so that they can also have the chance to build a robot as well as learn about FIRST values and compete in FRC while opening up opportunities that may influence in their future. Throughout these years we have participated in many events, like the Transformers Expo in 2014 or the very first Robotics day in Santiago, the largest robotics event in Latin America. Another event would be "Ingeniosas". In this event we taught programming and STEM to young girls, we had the chance to give speeches and present some of our demo-bots to an audience of more than 5,000 people, with a majority of them being young students. We also had the privilege to have the Chilean President Michelle Bachelet visit us and interact with some of our educative robots, we were grateful that she recognized our hard work to expand STEM education to the younger generations. Apart from simply attending fairs, we decided to host and run our own events. In TecnoFest we worked alongside RobotsChile, and students had the chance to attend lectures by foreign scientists and engineers who gave great discussions about their fields of study. Also, as a team, we displayed our FRC robot, made alliances and, networked with different companies. Each year we go to our team members schools were we motivate the kids into following their dreams and demonstrating to the teachers what we had accomplished in our time embracing STEM culture. Every year, we see the changes of each member during the build season where new members become part of our family. This change is well shown by our alumni. Undoubtedly, the majority of them head to universities, with 85% of them studying a STEAM related career. Even as they study it is difficult to part with the experience they had lived through and many go on to continue to support the dreams and projects of the team. For example, since 2013, our alumnus have been teaching our philosophy and hosting robotics classes to many schools including disadvantaged ones and even deaf schools from in and out of the country. Towards people who think that robotics isn't meant for them, an example of this is #LasNiñasPueden (#GirlsCan) where we encourage girls into science and demonstrating that they're more than just a pretty face.

Chilean Heart is a life-changing adventure that will always have its students best interests in mind since each and every one of them is a vein to the heart of the team and pumping all of their energy into whatever they do. What started out as something small, has matured every year by reaching more and more communities in the process. We have learned much more than what we have been taught in schools and thanks to that, we have turned into a team where leaders and scientists are made and end up sharing the same dream, a dream of improving ourselves and our reality. Our team is proof that the word 'impossible' shouldn't be in the dictionary since even though we only have the 10% of what the greater teams have we're on par with them by being the first Chilean team to ever win a regional and to make it to the sub-division final in the Championship. We are a united family, young and enthusiastic and as such, we represent our motto with pride: "When your heart is FIRST amazing things happen".