

## Chairman's Award - Team 6348

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2018 - Team 6348

**Team Number**

6348

**Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors**

PrepaTec Colima&ITESM PREPA TEC COLIMA

**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**

During our years in FIRST, HORUS has transformed from a small group of marginalized students at Prepa Tec Colima to an empowered team of professionals, who believe they have it in their power to transform their surroundings. This group has helped our students choose a STEM major by opening a safe and motivating space for us to discover our interests, and has led us to transform our thoughts into actions. It has made us step out of our comfort zone and push each other more everyday.

**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**

We do not discriminate when it comes to helping others, as we believe that we can learn something from everybody. We have worked with schools, migrant camps, turtle hatcheries, and communities. We have built incubators, solar light bulbs, and foam cutters. We have started recycling projects, food delivery projects and robotics classes. It all comes down to discovering the talent that everybody has in them, and giving them the motivation and support that they need to believe in themselves.

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

We create passion where confusion exists. This means bringing excitement to STEM courses and inspiring others to spread FIRST's message. We have coordinated science fairs for elementary level, we have built libraries at schools, organized robotics meets, created shows in malls, and involved kids in social change. We encourage them to have fun while finding their passion, so that they can fall in love with what they are doing. We are looking to inspire others, so they can do so too.

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

It is well known that a group effort can get you further than any sole action. We all have the same goal, but we also all have different ways of working towards it. Each one of us can draw off of the others, combine talents and impulse each other to become our best version of ourselves. In our team, we have divided our roles so that there is a head of department who has more experience, that can mentor those he works with, through a positive and honest example.

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

Last year we had the opportunity of winning the Rookie All Star in the Toluca Regional, competition that gave us our pass to the World in Houston, where we won the Rookie All Star again. Thanks to the experience we acquired there, we have now gone on to mentor other teams in Mexico, through workshops and conferences. We have also started working with the Science and Technology department of our State, in an effort to start FRC teams in the public high school system.

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

To spread FIRST's message, we are creating two FLL teams. One made up of incredibly bright and talented kids that we are scouting out at our different robotics courses at many underprivileged elementary schools of our state, and a second one made up solely of girls, with the goal of them participating in the World Robotics Olympiad (WRO) and FLL (First Lego League), because we believe strongly that the only way to becoming a better world is starting by having a world with equity.

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

We are in the beginning of creating our own story through FIRST, and we are loving it. We are getting inspired, we are creating change and we are spreading passion. Although we have not worked with other younger teams to progress them through the FIRST program, we are helping them make the biggest step, which is getting them started. We are looking forward to working with them in the following seasons and watching them grow into strong, empowered and united teams.

**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)**

Because we are fairly new to FIRST, we ourselves have not had much experience progressing through the FIRST program, however, this has not stopped us from spreading as much of our knowledge as we can. Through the Irapuato FIRST Fest in 2017 and the Kick-off of 2018, we have given different workshops in the way a FRC team is created and becomes successful. They are mainly for FRC teams, but where we have encountered participants of FIRST Tech Challenge, who will soon follow in our footsteps.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Our high school, Prepa Tec, is our main sponsor alongside Fundación Azteca. They were there when HORUS was born, and are who have watched us grow. We also have the support of different clothing stores like La Marina, hotels like Grand Bay, car companies, electronic shops, restaurants, metal shops, gardening stores, and many others, with whom we share a vision for a better future.

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

The relationship that we have with our sponsors is extremely close, since even more than business partners, they consider us, and we consider them our family. They are committed with this program, helping with financial support, mentoring and promotion, and have made it clear that more than being interested in social promotion, they have stayed with us because they believe in the program. Because of this at least 80% of them will have a permanent place in our team for many years to come.

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

Inspiring to inspire. Sharing knowledge. Breaking paradigms. Establishing new limits. Cooperating instead of competing. FIRST is a worldwide foundation that uses the knowledge of STEM courses and technology to inspire young people to change their world, to work together and become passionate about helping out others.

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

FIRST has transformed our lives, and HORUS will be forever grateful for that. We are deeply inspired every day with the work you do, and would like to thank you for believing in us. It is because of FIRST that we made the leap from the ordinary to the extraordinary, and that is something that will always be in our hearts. Thank you for everything.

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

Katherine Nagel

## Essay

The FIRST competition epitomizes what we love about FIRST, because the same way we build a robot, we build our dreams. Every nail we hammer pounds at our own beat, every wire we connect helps us establish relations between ourselves and others, and every line of code makes up the way we think and inspire.

FIRST has changed HORUS 6348 (Heart of Robotics, Union and Science) from a small group of marginalized students at Prepa Tec Colima who were interested in technology, to a strong, powerful and united team of teenagers, who can transform technology into change. Although this is only our second year in the competition, we are already different people, with higher aspirations and bigger dreams, people that are interested in creating a huge impact in our society, and people who believe that this is possible.

The competition lasts a couple of days. Each tournament lasts a couple of minutes. But the work put in, and the knowledge pulled out, are things that will help us for years. And that is what we love about FIRST. It really is more than just robots, as it defies limits and changes lives.

We have gone to the poorest places of our community, we have gone to people that have lost hope, we have gone to our schoolmates, we have gone to our mentors, we have visited people with disabilities and have talked to people with the world at their feet. We have visited boys and girls, men and women, young and old. We do not discriminate when it comes to helping others, as we believe that we can learn something from everybody, especially when it comes to STEM subjects, since these are the ones that are revolutionizing our world.

Because we believe in people and we trust that they can create something great, we believe it all comes down to discovering the talent that everybody has in them. Colima is a small town without a lot of technological outreach, but we do not see this as a disadvantage, on the contrary, we see our role here as the planters of a seed of knowledge, one that has probably always been there, but just needed someone to believe in it and give it some inspiration.

Through our four departments - HORUS Green, HORUS Community, HORUS Mentoring and HORUS Science - we have turned our world upside down, by creating passion where confusion existed. We have coordinated science fairs at an elementary level, we have built libraries at different schools, we have organized robotics meets and workshops, we have created shows in malls, and we have involved kids in social change. We encourage them to have fun while finding their passion, so that they can fall in love with what they are doing.

We believe that the milestone in our trajectory so far has been creating a foam cutter for an Institution called APAC, that houses and educates kids with cerebral paralysis. Here, each kid needs to have special foam cut out for their wheelchairs, a process that used to be made using a machete, and took forever. Now, with the cutter we have built, each person's quality of life has the opportunity to improve substantially, as they can get a quality product in less time and with less resources. This project is just as important as all of the ones we have done before, however, it is when the power of the message of FIRST really struck us. Because now, instead of building a robot that can throw balls or go over traps, we are building ones that can change lives.

We have also worked towards a more sustainable world by starting a recycling program that helps fund our team, as well as working with a turtle hatchery on the coast where we are building innovative incubators. We have started a project to eliminate food waste called Comiendo Juntos (Eating Together), where we have connected a wide variety of restaurants, stores and gastronomic institutes with different Migrant Worker Camps of our State, showing people the enormous effect that something as simple as not throwing food away can have. At the same camps we have implemented programs for solar lighting, using affordable and durable materials that the community themselves can build.

We are more amazed every day to see how involved the community gets, even at the smallest impulse. It can be a conference, a workshop, a presentation or a class, but seeing kids even younger than ourselves, grasp concepts that we are only just understanding, has blown us away. Especially since many of these kids have never been in a formal education institution, due to migrations or poverty. However, as we mentioned before, HORUS stands for union and inclusion, and we believe in equal opportunities for everyone, everywhere, and are inspired more everyday by seeing the growth in others, as we are inspiring to inspire, becoming part of an everlasting change of positive social transformations. Part of this consists in spreading the message of FIRST and bringing the competition and all of its knowledge to our community. To be part of this, we are in the process of creating two FLL teams. One made up of incredibly bright and talented kids that we are scouting out at our different robotics courses at many underprivileged elementary schools of our state, and a second one made up solely of girls, as pioneers for the inclusion of women in the STEM fields, since unfortunately inequality plays such a big role in our state.

Last year, as Rookies, we had the amazing opportunity to win the Rookie All Star in the Toluca Regional, the competition that gave us our pass to the World Championship in Houston, where we won the Rookie All Star again. Thanks to the knowledge and experience we acquired there, we went on to mentor other teams, that will be Rookies during this season. We have participated in various FIRST events, such as our workshop for the FIRST Fest in Irapuato in 2017 and the Rookie All Star workshop during the Kick-off in Toluca 2018.

Every day we learn something new, whether it is about programming, electronics, finances or business, and with every new day, our passion grows more. It is hard to believe that HORUS was only born a couple of years ago, since it feels like home now. Learning and working surrounded with people that motivate and inspire us everyday, turns all of our members into more active, conscious and socially responsible people.

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And absolutely none of this would have been possible if we had not had the support of our sponsors behind us. Our high school, Prepa Tec Colima, is our main sponsor and our relationship is extremely close, because even more than a business partner, they consider us, and we consider them our family. They are committed with this program and have helped us since day one, from financial help to mentoring to promotion, and have made it clear that they are looking out for our best interest and want us to keep growing in the future, which is why they will have a permanent place in our team for many years to come. Next to them stands Fundación Azteca, as they have made it possible for us to form as a team and go to competitions ever since our first season. Not only do we share their mission of developing well rounded, caring leaders that are capable of going out into the world and having an impact on people, but we also promote the technological and innovation values that they stand for. We also have many other sponsors from around our state that have been the reason that we have gotten so far. We have clothing stores such as La Marina, hotels like Grand Bay, car companies, electronic shops, restaurants, metal shops, gardening stores, and many other small companies that have helped us. The advantage we have is that we see a long future with most of them. We estimate that 80% of our current sponsors will stay with us for the following years, because more than being interested in social promotion, they have stayed with us because they believe in the program and the potential we have.

We may not have been part of FIRST for decades, but the transformation that we have seen in our team in this short period of time has made us know that FIRST is something that we want to carry in our blood forever. Inspiring to inspire. Sharing knowledge. Breaking paradigms. Establishing new limits. Cooperating instead of competing. This is what FIRST is all about, this is what we have learned, and this is what we want to transmit. We only get one life, we only have this moment. We are not looking to force one way of thought, we are not here to impose an ideology. Kids need a small impulse to create their dreams, and organizations like FIRST can make this leap possible. HORUS would like to thank FIRST for this opportunity, for planting in us the seed of change, and for opening our eyes to a new world, where people are more opened minded, where all thoughts count, where all dreams are possible, where service is an act of will and not an obligation, and where changing at least one mind can make a difference. Thank you for believing in us, you can now count on us to make FIRST last on.