

## Chairman's Award - Team 772

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2019 - Team 772

### Team Number

772

### Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Centerline Windsor Ltd. /General Motors of Canada/Brave Control Solutions/Bell Canada/Rockwell Automation /St Clair College/Performance Ford/University of Windsor/Gates Canada & Sandwich Secondary School

### Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years

\*100% of our alumni pursue post-secondary education, 97% of which are in STEM fields \*Alumni gone on to mentor 6 FRC teams in Ontario \*2 Dean's List Finalists \*150% increase in number of female members since 2012, where 30% is female, 62% in technical roles \*FIRST Robotics Canada Intern, Event Committee, & Girls in STEM Council Members \*3rd place team at boardwide computer science competition \*1st place at hackathon with university and high school students \*Recipients of robotics scholarships

### Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years

\*Instrumental in starting Windsor Essex Great Lakes District Event (WEGLE) - 5k people attend annually \*Started, host, & run Southwest International Off-Season, & 2 FLL tournaments where 3k people attend annually \*7 All-Girls FIRST Teams \*1 of 4 Super Hubs in Ontario \*2 FLL & FRC Practice Days \*FLL without Borders Program in Canada, Morocco, Peru & soon Poland \*Girls in Tech Workshop \*Apprenticeship Program - guides our FRC teams to success \*Girls Luncheon at WEGLE

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

\*Art by the River \*Town of LaSalle Bike Rodeo \*Canada Day and Strawberry Festival Parades \*Windsor Science Rendezvous, Meet a Machine \*Let's Talk TV show appearances (the above have culminated over 50k impacts in the community) \*Town of LaSalle Council, School and Board presentations \*Communication and involvement with the Mayor of LaSalle, School Board Trustee, Dean of Science at UWindsor, Dean of Engineering Technology at St. Clair College \*FRC Monopoly for promotion of STIEAM

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

\*Building Leaders program - our students work to build leaders of our new recruits and model leadership \*Team members mentor and assist 4 other FLL and FRC teams on their own time \*Assistance of other FLL and FRC Teams at FIRST events and Super Hub \*Team members of our programs (ie FLL without Borders) that have impacted youth around the world \*Star of the Day x8 - emulating safe practices \*Team members conduct multiple presentations to guide and navigate teams to success

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

\*Started & assist 24 FRC Teams \*Communications with sponsors and one on one assistance and Sabre Support with securing funding and resources for teams \*Participation in outreach events where we collect contact information of interested individuals and follow up with them \*Sharing build space and donating materials, published resources, assistance and mentoring \*Working with interested individuals, teachers, and schools and presentations at schools

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

\*Started 75 FLL and FLL Jr. Teams \*Presentations at schools and community centres \*Interviews with students at outreach events (i.e. demonstrations, company open houses) \*FLL and FLL JR. displays at community and FIRST events to expose community to LEGO Robotics \*Hosted and ran FLL Blastoff and Practice Days - event accompanied with workshops to familiarise and guide teams with all aspects of FLL \*Partner with local organization to secure funds and resources to support teams

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

\*Our team focuses to navigate teams to success & remain sustainable \*7 years of FRC Practice Day \*6 years of dual FLL Practice Days \*Super Hub - we give assistance in all aspects of a team up to 12 hours/week during build season \*hosted 6202 x2 years, mentoring FRC & FLL teams & assisting our other teams \*Hosted & ran STEMinar event to steer teams to a successful season and to remain sustainable \*Instrumental in starting & assisting at FLL/FRC tournaments at home to reduce costs x5 years

**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)**

\*We share our building space, tools & materials with rookie or young FRC teams \*Members of our team mentor multiple FLL teams and work with rookie/low-member FRC teams as well, such as FRC team 6875 \*Our Sabre Support Walk-In Hub encourages struggling teams to come to our school and seek easy-access help \*Our FLL Blastoff and FRC Centerline Social help newer teams experience a friendly mock version of actual events while interacting with veteran teams.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

\*Centerline - FIRST Event Sponsor, venue for FRC Practice Day, custom parts for teams, volunteer at events, FRC & FLL team mentors \*University of Windsor & St Clair College- Event Sponsor, annual \$1k to all Windsor Teams, \$1-4k scholarships to all FIRST alumni who attend their schools, venue for Windsor Essex Great Lakes Event (UWindsor), FLL Tournaments (St. Clair), One-Stop Shop for FRC Teams (St. Clair) \*St. Clair College & UWindsor have donated \$118k to WECK FRC teams

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years**

We give our sponsors personalised gifts every year, and invite them to our annual sponsor banquet where representatives attend free of charge. Centreline employs our alumni for co-op, internships, and full-time, and mentor some of our FLL and FRC teams. Sponsors are invited to take tours of our facilities and are updated throughout the year with newsletters. They are also volunteers at events as key roles (judging, refereeing, etc.).

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

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a beneficial robotics program geared towards students that encourages early hands-on exposure to STEM. Founded by Dean Kamen, FIRST offers students in FLL Jr., FLL, FTC, or FRC the opportunity to participate in projects, tournaments, and activities, teaching these children more about STEM and allowing them to accumulate experience. FIRST is really the hardest fun someone can have!

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

We run a can drive every year at our FLL Tournaments, where we have collected over 1 tonne of food items. We promote the Be a Donor Organ Donation Campaign at events; 313 people clicked to register under our Be A Donor subdomain as a result. We donated \$200 to Little Hands for a Cause, to help families whose children suffer from cancer. To promote art & eco-friendly innovation in STEAM, we created an Eco Architecture Award at Southwest International for teams to design an eco-friendly facility.

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

Griffin Howson

## Essay

### FRC TEAM 772 CHAIRMAN'S ESSAY

From its inception in 2001 to 2012, the Sabre Bytes Team 772 was the only active sustainable FIRST team in Windsor Essex Chatham-Kent (WECK). For 11 years, we promoted FIRST in our community, but in 2012, we reached for the stars. It became our mission to give all members of our community the opportunity to participate in FIRST and STIEAM (Science, Technology, Industry, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) from a young age. We are a centre of expansion for FIRST, as we continually transform, grow and sustain our FIRST universe locally and globally.

### EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY

Team 772 acts in the name of equity, diversity and inclusivity. Our belief in EDI is the motivation for many initiatives that impact not only our team, but our local and global community. We participate in all-girls events including the International River Crossing Girl Guide Event, where we impact over 2000 girls in US and Canada annually. We also inspire girls to take on leadership positions by attending the Bloomfield Girls Event. As a result of our promotion of girls in STIEAM, 30% of our team this year is female, with 62% holding technical roles. In 2018, we started and mentored one all-girls FRC team, 6875 Build a Dream. In their rookie year, they won the Windsor Essex Great Lakes District Event (WEGLDE), the Ontario Championship Science Division and the Ontario Provincial Championships, as well as Rookie Inspiration and Highest Rookie Seed Awards. Having provided them with a strong foundation, we were excited to see them soar and we are eager to guide them towards sustainable success. We have also started and mentor six FLL and two FLL Jr. girls teams. We host and run several events to promote the inclusion of girls in STIEAM, including Girls in Tech workshops, and partnered with FRC 5885, we host and run Hour of Code events and the Girls in STEM Luncheon at WEGLDE. Hour of Code events hosted 42% female participants, as well as 56% representing racial minorities.

### FLL/FLL JR.

In 2012, FIRST LEGO programs were nearly non-existent in WECK, due to little support for teams and no local tournaments. Since our commitment to exposing all local youth to FIRST and STIEAM, 95 FLL and FLL Jr. teams, 2 qualifying tournaments, 2 practice days, FLL Blastoff and 2 FLL Jr. showcases have burst into existence. To ensure the continued development of these programs, 772 offers continual assistance to all teams, as well as partnering with local organizations to provide materials required for success, including LEGO tables, field kits and laptops. We host our annual FLL Blastoff and Practice days for teams to get support and prepare for competition, which provides a solid foundation for a successful season. In 2013, we collaborated with Windsor Essex FIRST Robotics to launch the Windsor FLL Qualifying Tournament. After the success of the first tournament and our continued recruitment of teams, we excitedly launched the second competition day in 2015. Team 772 is proud to represent a large part of the volunteer base in running these events, for 6 years and counting. Our FLL teams continually rank in the top 10 at the provincial level, and earn a variety of awards. At the FRC WEGLDE, we host FLL and FLL Jr. teams to display the range of FIRST programs. Through persistent promotion of FLL, 772 has impacted over 25,000 participants, parents, spectators and mentors throughout WECK, and we are continually pushing to expand our FLL community.

### FRC

Team 772 has an ambitious vision for all high school students in WECK to have the opportunity to experience FIRST. We have also committed to ensuring the growth and sustainability of the FRC program in our community through continuous mentorship and assistance. Since 2013, we have started 24 teams, accounting for about 12% of active teams in Ontario. 21 of these teams account for 77% of high schools in Windsor Essex. We provide mentorship to teams through our Apprenticeship Program, which aims to launch them into independence, success and sustainability in their FIRST experience. We have opened our shop as the Sabre Support Program, one of four Ontario Super Hubs that offers one-on-one assistance, materials, machine use and online help. Our Business in a Box Program is a resource for teams that acts as a guideline to create a sustainable business model. Much of the success and sustainability with WECK FRC teams can be associated with our these programs. Due to our hub's success, we were invited to join the Compass Alliance, where we offer our support as a global resource. Our mentorship has lead five teams in the past five years to winning the Rookie All Star Award, with one team moving on to win at the Ontario District and World Championships. Our mentorship and assistance has also lead 20 teams to the World Championships over the past 6 years.

The Southwest International Off-Season Event is an event that we have started, hosted and ran for the past four years. Previously housed at St. Clair College (SCC), we have partnered with the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) to host the event within our school gym for the past two years. This event was designed to provide rookie teams and members an early hands-on experience to the FRC program and excitement to come.

### BREAKING BARRIERS

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Our mission of breaking barriers represents our dedication to bringing FIRST and STIEAM to children worldwide. We focus on giving continuous opportunities, assistance and mentorship to underprivileged youth around the globe. Locally, we have partnered with the organization New Beginnings to start FRC 6202. Since their inception in 2016, we have hosted and mentored them through our Sabre Support Program, with 772 alumni becoming mentors on the team. In 2017, 772 started the FLL Without Borders Program with the goal of bringing LEGO Robotics to underexposed youth around the globe. As part of the initiative, we are partnered with the CommUnity Partnership (CUP) Program, with whom we run weekly LEGO robotics camps for underserved children in WECK. This year, we have expanded the local program, with 8 weekly camps hosted in partnership with United Way. The project has also launched its first competition team with the Islamic Scout Group. To expand globally, team members traveled to Morocco, where they supplied kits and computers, trained teachers, and ran camps for the children. Team 772 has also expanded the program to Peru, providing LEGO kits, computers, and mentorship to the Peru Scout Group. We are currently working with an Israeli team to offer LEGO programs to underserved and special needs youth globally.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Team 772 values its relationships with corporate sponsors, thanking them throughout the year by providing newsletters, shop and event invites and an annual banquet to show how their support is valued. These partnerships often lead to alumni becoming their employees, and employees coaching and volunteering at all levels of FIRST events. SCC and the University of Windsor both offer each local FRC team \$1000, for six and two consecutive seasons respectively. Both schools also offer thousands of dollars annually in scholarships to FIRST students. SCC further shows their support to FIRST by offering their facilities and resources during the build season and WEGLDE, where teams can receive custom parts for their robot. Their machine shop and facilities, made specifically for WEGLDE, are the largest in FRC. After several years advocating a Robotics course, we finally partnered with the GECDSB to introduce FIRST to the curriculum at Sandwich Secondary School for the 2019-2020 school year. We intend on further promoting the course with the goal of expanding it to more schools in the near future. This addition will allow more students to become exposed to FIRST and develop a variety of technical skills. Our team approached a local Princess Auto store requesting a sponsorship, who now offers all WECK teams a 20% discount. These partnerships are extremely important to our team and community, as they ensure the sustainability and growth of FIRST in WECK for years to come.

**IMPACT**

Team 772 has maintained a diverse field of outreach since 2001. For the past 18 years, we have spread the joy of FIRST and STIEAM through various demonstrations at both STIEAM and non-STIEAM based events. This year, we attended the 5 day International Plowing Match, where over 75,000 people were in attendance. Our diverse outreach events, social media posts, and articles in local and national media have reached over 2 million people in 17 different countries. Through the expansion of FIRST in WECK, there are now over 25,000 individuals, including students, mentors, spectators and volunteers, who have been impacted by the program.

Our platform has been used to promote and support local causes. Since 2012, we have been active advocates for the Be a Donor organ and tissue donation campaign. Due to our promotion of the initiative, 313 people have been registered through our team link. For the past two years, the proceeds from concessions at our events have been donated to local organizations. In our 2017-2018 season, 100% of the proceeds went to Little Hands for a Cause, an initiative that offers financial support to families whose children are suffering from life-threatening illnesses. This year, our concession earnings were donated to the LaSalle Hangout, a group that provides a safe space for high school students to study and socialize. We believe that it is an important act of citizenship for our team to be engaged with charities in our community. Originating from a single point and acting as the centre of an ever-expanding universe, we are reaching for the stars in our expansion of FIRST spanning across Southwestern Ontario and beyond. Much like perpetual motion, 772 will continue to impact thousands of individuals indefinitely, promoting the FIRST program and STIEAM in WECK and across the globe.