

Chairman's Award - Team 1156

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2020 - Team 1156

Team Number

1156

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

John Deere/National Instruments/Metalthaga/Severo Industria/Plastfera/Technotools&Marista Pio XII

Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last five years.

The FIRST program has inspired our members professionally & developmentally. 99% of our students go to college and, for the 5th year in a row, +90% of them chose STEAM fields. Students have been given internships and job opportunities from our sponsors, John Deere & Severo Industria. Several alumni members went on to work at world-class companies such as John Deere, Riot Games, Weatherford, SAP or at their own companies in STEAM fields. 100% of our mentors are former FIRST students.

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community within the last five years.

Our community was deeply impacted by FIRST since 1156's inception. More than 2,200 students are impacted yearly in the largest robotics event in our state that we organize. In 2019, we ran the 1st FRC off season event in Brazil, allowing our community and country to witness how robotics can change lives, paving the way to develop FIRST in Brazil. We return over 2000+ hours of community volunteering each year, in Child Cancer Institutes, hospitals and underprivileged schools.

Describe the team's methods for spreading the *FIRST* message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.

Through creating FIRST teams, 1156 strives to spread the FIRST message to engage students thus causing a cascade effect. We implemented robotics in our school's curriculum. In our community, we spread the FIRST message through local events, demos and campaigns on social & local media, accounting 700k+ impressions in 2019. We appeared on a TV series about FLL & were part of the Torch's reception of the 2016 Olympics, getting featured on the RIO 2016 Twitter account with +600.000 impressions.

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

Our team members don't measure efforts to inspire other FIRST team members. We've traveled +9.500 man-miles and spent over 1800+ hours in 2019 doing workshops and volunteering in FIRST events all over the American continent. In the last 5 years we volunteered in 45 FIRST events around the continent. We assist 100% of Brazilian FRC teams during the season and offseason. All of the teams we created and mentored used our team methods & action plans to further develop their own.

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

In 2018 we gave a head start to establish FRC in Brazil with SESI, the Official Brazilian FIRST Operator, initiating a massive FRC team growth of 44% since then. We traveled 1500+ miles to support & mentor these teams through workshops in 2019. On our offseason event in 2019, we provided the 1st contact with FRC for 2 pre-rookie teams and SESI representatives came to learn how to run an FRC event, aiming to run one with 1156 in 2020, where 15 pre-rookie teams will be trained by us to compete.

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

1156 has a huge impact on the development of FIRST in South America. In 2019, we ran the 1st National FTC tournament in Brazil, in which all 16 participating FTC teams were started & trained by us. We repeated this process for the 2020 season with 21 other teams. In 2019 & 2020 we trained 100% of FTC judges & 98% of coaches in Brazil, developing and personally distributing SOP documents & training presentations about creating and managing FLL & FTC teams.

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

Our school is the only institution in South America that has a full progression from FLL to FTC to FRC. Aiming to replicate that, 90% of the FTC teams we started in 2019 & 2020 were former FLL teams that implemented FTC at their schools, from which 15 are already confirmed by SESI to become FRC pre-rookie teams in 2020. We gave 9 hours of video calls to FRC teams we started, helping them prepare for their 1st season. In the last 2 years, we've helped 37 teams progress through the FIRST program.

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)

Working together makes everyone grow, we share our lab with both FLL and FTC teams we started and mentor. With team 2526, we created the WorldWide Project, to develop common scalable curriculums to mentor new teams around the world, we teamed up with teams from 5 countries to translate. We invited 1772 to organize an offseason event alongside us, giving workshops and working together to reach even more people. We're the first and only South American team in the Compass Alliance Project.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

1156 has an excellent portfolio of sponsors: John Deere contributes with funding and mentoring; National Instruments contribute with funding & resources; Marista Pio XII school contribute with workspace and funding; Marist Network allows us to organize robotics events; Diedrich and Metalhaga provide machining services; Cypress Turismo backs us with travel and insurance assistance; Plastfera offers aid with plastic; and several other companies that provide us with materials or services.

Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors within the last five years.

Our relationship with our sponsors goes beyond any funding. We helped to implement the John Deere JD Inspire Program in Brazil, which made it possible for us to start & mentor FLL teams in Horizontina and Montenegro. Our partnership with National Instruments inspires us to encourage other teams to use NI LabVIEW, through trainments, including lectures at universities (out of 5 people in our state that are certified by the NI CLAD exam, 2 are on the team).

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

FIRST is an institution that promotes STEAM soft skills development. It's much more than just a robotics competition. It's a lifelong experience, where the learning, teamwork and cooperative growth with other teams is worth way more than a medal. It has opened us doors to the job market, generating both academic & professional opportunities through learnings and experiences. It stimulates our students to volunteer, to spread its message & principles and to become the new leaders of tomorrow.

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

In 2019 we pioneered a project named Girls In Control. The project aims to increase female representation and encourage young women to pursue STEAM careers. We do that through robotics boot camps & workshops run by female students and mentors. In our 2019 offseason event, Girls in Control had their robot built & driven solely by girls. These actions had a great impact on our team, and in 2020, 50% of the new members are girls, resulting in 44% of female representation on the team.

For FRC teams older than 5 years, briefly describe your team's broader impact from its inception.

We're making Brazilian FIRST loud! 1156's responsible for reintroducing FTC in Brazil & starting 37 teams of the category since the 2018/2019 season. After starting & mentoring 4 FRC teams in 2019 & running the 1st FRC offseason event in South America, we're finally achieving the establishment of FRC in Brazil. We've helped to implement FIRST in Uruguay, running their 1st event in 2016. The country has now 78 FLL teams and yearly competitions where we train and act as judges and volunteers.

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

Essay

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to 1156's electrifying journey! We're about to show you how we powered South America and several countries with our energy: inspiration, motivation, teamwork & hard work. Since our first inspiration spark in 2002, we've been working to keep our energy high and stable. We've empowered our members to grow, progressively wiring stronger connections with partners & sponsors, who've joined our journey, helping us reach even further. Every time 1156's energy is transmitted, FIRST and its values are spread, opening new possibilities to those who never had access to STEAM. Our objective is to use this energy to motivate people so they can build their own initiatives and help us achieve our main goal: create a sustainable international FIRST community.

STORING & STABILIZING: Team Members

Our members are the team's main energy source. Because of them we've developed programs such as Repio 2.0, that offers students yearly courses in STEAM, so they can discover talents & develop soft skills. With the creation of the Girls In Control group in 2019, girls in our school community felt empowered to join the Repio 2.0 project & 1156, resulting in a 44% female representation on the team in 2020. We created a girls-only team for our offseason event, which was featured in 2 local newspapers reaching 42,000+ people. This gave our female members the necessary energy to overcome preconceived ideas and stand for strong leadership positions. With our energy fully stored and members empowered, it's time to invest our energy in expanding STEAM to our city, state & country.

POWERING STEAM in our COMMUNITY: Projects & actions

Our community is the fuel that drives us to keep empowering people beyond borders. With 2000+ hours of volunteer work per year, our team has been considered a role model for robotics outreach projects, being invited year after year to showcase our robot and FIRST in community events and work alongside multinational companies to develop projects in STEAM.

Since 2009, we've been running the largest robotics event in our state, the Marist Robotics Festival, involving kids in STEAM challenges. Since 2015, 11,750+ students have been empowered by the event. In 2016, we built a telepresence robot for the CEO of Banco do Brasil - the largest bank in Latin America - for a technology event with 2,500+ people. In 2018, for the 4th time, we've participated in Olimpíada do Conhecimento, the largest tech education fair in Brazil. We invited team 6404 to join the event, helping them reach more people and gain experience.

Acknowledging the situation of most Brazilians, we run donation projects and thrift shops throughout the year. Since 2015 we've donated 6600+ pieces of clothing to families in need and 435 lbs of food to nursing homes. We hold yearly workshops with LEGO Mindstorms kits at underprivileged schools to energize young people to learn about FIRST's values, having empowered 5400+ teens. Since 2014 we've been regularly visiting AMO, a children's Cancer Institute, to empower kids with FLL robots and donate bottle caps for recycling, their main source of earnings.

After powering great projects & actions inside our community, we need to generate more energy and make stronger connections to pursue a bigger cause: make FIRST a growing and sustainable force in Brazil.

BEING FIRST'S ENERGY SOURCE IN BRAZIL: Creating, Mentoring & Assisting teams

Since 2014 we've been working with SESI, the Official FIRST Operator in Brazil, to make FIRST louder.

First, we focused on FLL, volunteering in 100% of Brazilian regionals until 2016. At that moment we realized that in order to achieve our goals, we needed to reach a new level of energy transmission. So we started training FLL judges & coaches, encouraging the creation and development of new teams. After 4 years of consistent work, there are now 18 regionals and +610 FLL teams in Brazil and 1156's training resources are used in all FLL trainings for judges, coaches & volunteers.

Before 2018, all FLL students used to have their FIRST journey abruptly ended, since there was no category to progress after age 16. It was in that year we saw a great opportunity to change this situation, through FTC - which was non-existent in our country - and FRC. Our team members hosted a guided tour to SESI representatives at the 2018 Championship in Houston to introduce them to both categories. This tour was a tipping point for FIRST in Brazil. It resulted in SESI entrusting us with the opportunity to start and mentor 16 FTC and 4 FRC teams in 2019.

In the same year, we ran the first FTC National event in Brazil, being volunteers, judges and training all judges & coaches attending the event. In 3 days, we empowered 18,000+ visitors who were introduced to the category.

With the event's success, SESI became a stronger connection to 1156, and gave us the mission, in the 2019/2020 season, to train 20 coaches, all new judges and start 21 new FTC teams. All of them were at the FTC National event in 2020, where we volunteered and ran an FRC demonstration with team 7565.

All 4 FRC teams we've started were also mentored by us during their rookie season in 2019, through live trainings, daily contact via message, weekly video conferences and materials donation. Remarkably, all 4 teams won either Rookie All Star or Rookie Inspiration awards. And both teams that won the Rookie All Star at the regionals also won the award at the Championship in Houston.

But we still had work to do regarding FRC in Brazil. So in 2019, we ran and hosted the first FRC event in more than 10 years in South America, Off Season Brazil 2019, alongside team 1772.

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The event counted with awards evaluation, giving the opportunity for all teams - including 2 pre-rookies - recognizing the work of Brazilian teams and giving them feedback on their work. During the event 2 FTC and 5 FLL teams demoed their robots & presented their teams and categories to the public.

Beyond leading the organizational committee, our members were the event judges, referees and coordinated 66 1156's volunteers. And we, along 1772, ran coding, mechanics and outreach workshops. Off Season Brazil provided a whole FIRST experience to Brazilian teams and to 3000+ visitors from all over the country who attended the event.

STRONG CONNECTIONS WORLDWIDE: Taking FIRST around the world

With strong connections, our energy can be transmitted even further. In 2016 the Technological Education Governmental Program in Uruguay, Plan Ceibal, reached out to 1156 asking for help and guidance in regards to running the FIRST program in their country. We taught and provided support on how to implement how to work with FIRST programs, throughout weeks of training and assistance.

The result of this partnership was the 1st FIRST event in Uruguay, the 2nd largest FIRST event in Latin America, where we were volunteers and judges. This led us to develop a great connection with the program's director, Fabiana Pedrini. We've been to Uruguay 5 times to give workshops, trainings & to be judges & volunteers on their yearly competitions, since then. Now, with 78 FLL teams, Uruguay can produce their own energy which has been spread to Argentina, Paraguay, Honduras, Ecuador, Guatemala, Colombia and Chile.

To expand our connections, we have created the WorldWide Project with team 2526, developing a scalable FLL and FTC curriculum to assist new teams around the world. We managed to team up with teams from 5 countries to translate and send the documents to their respective community institutions, taking our energy worldwide.

We're the first and only South American team in the Compass Alliance Project, a consortium with more than 80 teams from around the globe working to create resources aiming for a sustainable FIRST community.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: Future Projects

In order to keep striving for the most sustainable energy source, we have bigger plans for the future. In 2020 we will help Uruguay run their first FTC regional and start & train 16 FTC teams. To support all Brazilian FTC community, we've developed the FTC Brasil website, which will be launched in Q2/2020 to share all 1156's resources and translated documents. SESI entrusted our team with the training of 15 pre-rookies who will compete in the second offseason event in Brazil, and furtherly become official FRC teams.

18 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

The experience obtained over the years made us a role model for robotics in our community, country and continent. By developing projects, running events, structuring FIRST in a whole new country (UY) and orchestrating the start of FTC in Brazil, 1156's energy has reached thousands of FIRST teams and impacted so many people who now feel energized to grow through STEAM, inspired to pay it forward, empowering others. Since 2015, 1156 has:

- Started 47, mentored 109 and assisted 638 FIRST teams;
- Attended 45 FIRST events;
- Traveled 284,700 miles to assist and mentor FIRST teams;
- Reached 27 million people through TV, newspapers & social media;
- Energized 14 countries;
- Directly involved 87.950 people with FIRST;

During the 2020 Kickoff, Dean Kamen quoted Einstein: "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted".

Although we can count how many teams we start and volunteers we train, the most important thing isn't countable: The impact of our energy in the lives of every single person we've touched over the years, an energy capable of lightning a sparkle of inspiration in teenager's lives, triggering a chain reaction inside communities and countries.

Some actions are simply too big to be measured and distilled into words. Those are the actions that have the power to energize the world!

Our journey continues and we will work hard to keep up and honor our beloved Woodie words during his showcase at the 2019 Championship in Houston: "1156 is killing it". And we'll keep doing that, because "that's really good stuff" - (Flowers, Woodie).