

Chairman's Award - Team 3616

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2020 - Team 3616

Team Number

3616

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Comeaux Academic Enrichment Program/Lafayette Parish School System/ISA Lafayette/IEEE Lafayette/Pugh Family Foundation/CLECO/McGill Precision Waterjet LLC/Automated Production/TRINITY GRAPHX SIGNS & DESIGNS/CAD Solutions/Arrow Aviation/Craig Landry, DDS/Gordan Technologies LLC/Jack and Stephanie Godwin/Chitimacha Louisiana Open /Nathan and Bethany Ranney&Ovey Comeaux High School&Lafayette High School&Southside High School&Thibodaux STEM Magnet Acad&Tm Landry College Preparatory

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

The FIRST program has left a long-lasting impact on our team participants. FIRST has given us the opportunity to learn how to-use tools, create designs and 3d-print them, program a robot to move, and strengthen public speaking skills. Through acquiring these skills, our members have become problem solvers and critical thinkers. Most importantly, FIRST has improved and strengthened our members and mentors manners and courtesy. This is widely noticed and respected by teachers and the community.

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

Hosted FLL Tournament in Houma, LA and proceeds donated from registration, \$300, concessions, \$350, and \$1000 in addition went to Hope Extreme (a non-profit organization that tutors over 100 students daily). Assisted with STEM introduction to local elementary and middle schools. Our team was observed by ULL Professors, Superintendent of Lafayette Parish School Systems, and Supervisors for insight to write grants for professional development for high and middle school teachers to start robotics.

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

Our team lives by the quote "We cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future." - Franklin D Roosevelt. As a result our team aids members to be equipped with the skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing technologically, innovative future. In addition, we teach our team members transportable skills, communication, creative thinking and collaboration. Therefore, our members obtain higher knowledge to allow for diversified employment avenues.

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

Our members are role models by being punctual and school oriented. They ignite the spark for creative and ingenuitive problem solving through engaging workshops, taking initiative to promote diligent collaborations to prepare students for build season, modeling safe work practices and showcasing gracious professionalism at all times.

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

Our team has initiated 3 FRC teams: Two retired teams (Team 4832 Carencro High Crobots and Team 4353 David Thibodeaux High Krewe de Robotics) and one currently competing team that was started by a former mentor on Team 3616 (Team 4336 Ramagedon). Currently, we have been working with people with John Deere to encourage a school in the Terrebonne Parish area to start an FRC Team. John Deere presently sponsors FLL teams in that area and also provide volunteers to help with the FLL qualifier.

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

Team 3616 has initiated 4 FTC Teams: 11200 from Comeaux High, 15284 from St.Thomas More, and 16771 and 16916 both from St. Martinsville (started after grant writer consulted our team about FIRST programs). Annually, we host EV3 Camps and Fast Starts. We also bring a bucket load of FIRST robots to our exhibitions to engage the students "FIRST-hand" allowing them to drive robots. FLL teams to get more experience by coming to our school to work with the EV3s - Result 8 FLL teams initiated.

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

Team 3616 provides assistance to FLL teams in person, through emails & phone calls-to give guidance on programming & constructive feedback on projects. Our team hosts robotics camps and FLL Fast Starts with workshops on team building, programming, and strategizing/ design.

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)

Our team works to serve as mentors to less experienced FLL teams by emphasizing the discovery of new skills, the importance of Innovation using creativity and persistence to solve real world problems and the significance of collaborative Teamwork to create a technologically innovative society. We equip these students with gracious professionalism skills that can be used on the competition field and beyond.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

Comeaux High Academic Enrichment Program; LPSS; ISA Lafayette; IEE; Pugh Family Foundation; CLECO; Louisiana Craft Guild; McGill Precision Waterjet; Trinity Graphix Signs & Designs; CAD Solutions; Arrow Aviation; Moncla Companies; Industrial Hand Rehabilitation Center; Chitimacha Louisiana Open; Gordon Industries; Terrebonne Association of Teachers & Educators; SCTE-ISBE Cable Tec Expo New Orleans 2019; Dr. Barry Henry; Lindsey Champagne; Dr. Nathan Ranney

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

Our sponsors provide opportunities for students to develop skills in preparation for future employment in STEM careers with in-kind donations, usage and visits of their facilities, and financial assistance. As a result, our relationship with our mentors is strong because we invite them to tour our facilities so they can see our team in action. Also, our team is invited to sponsor's annual social and fund-raiser events to exhibit and present our robots.

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

FIRST's Vision is to inspire the next generation of engineers, mathematicians, and scientists to thrive in a rapidly changing technologically innovative future. People from diverse backgrounds and skill sets work together to leave a long lasting impact on the world. It gives members a one of a kind experience to further their knowledge of engineering principles and challenges us to build a robot in approximately 6 weeks allowing us to learn teamwork, problem solving, and leadership skills.

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

Our team was consulted by LPSS for a robotics program at the W.D. Baker Smith Career Center. Result: LPSS funded the only permanent and dual use FRC field, 1 ITECH center, 3d printers, CAD/COM lab programs, and robotic classes. Past years, Team 3616 were given the opportunity to be involved in a disciplinary workshop at Lumcon in Cocodrie, LA. At this 2-day workshop students learned about endangered wetlands and environments by using robotics and marine biology to build underwater robots.

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

Team 3616 Phenomena's Brand is well known around the state of Louisiana and among the FIRST communities. We take pride in exhibiting "Gracious Professionalism" at all times. For this reason, our team is constantly being asked to come out into the community and share our expertise in the form of presentations, teaching opportunities, and exhibitions.

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

Hailey Menard

Essay

Louisiana's success or failure is tethered to the oil and gas industry which employs a large majority of our population and makes up the bulk of our tax revenue. With the industry experiencing a downturn which is severe and on-going, our youth are forced to look outside the state for opportunities. Our culture, with ties to the exiles from Nova Scotia, is a mix of music, food, family, faith, and fun. Family ties run deep and a continuous effort is needed to keep students in the community. It is important to provide skills needed to compete at a global level while still remaining in Louisiana. Resources and opportunities are critical for our students to become entrepreneurs to create new opportunities for our state to diversify.

Team 3616 Phenomena is motivated to step in and spread Robotics/STEM awareness and create a foundation for tomorrow's leaders to bring changes to our state to reduce dependency on oil and gas. We aim to lift people out of a mono-industrial dependence, low educational standards, and poverty to inspire them to embrace their potential in a culture where community is important.

Team 3616 was founded in 2011 and was the FIRST robotics team in Lafayette, LA. With a limited budget and no nearby FRC teams to assist us, we were determined to not only foster; but, also spread the principles of teamwork, communication and application of knowledge in the community. Our team's brand was an instant success with the community coming together to provide donations, technical guidance, and a platform to spread our message starting locally and spreading across the state. Louisiana is known for our hospitality and fun loving Cajun culture so "Gracious Professionalism" comes natural and easy to sustain. Educators, our school district, and state and local government officials began looking for ways to support Team 3616.

Students are introduced to FIRST robotics culture through workshops where training with our mentors builds valuable skills and inspires students to commit to teamwork and innovation. Some of our mentors are alumni who relate to the challenges students face in taking on this competition and the sense of responsibility to the future our team embodies. Members learn the importance of exploring new skills; persevering in the face of challenge; applying what they've learned to make measurable improvement; to be respectful of everyone; and along the way have fun. They learn that gracious professionalism and cooperation permeates into all aspects of their lives and the challenges they have to tackle and become leaders in their school, family, and community. Louisiana is one of a handful of states whose job opportunities are at greatest risk of being eliminated through automation. We use the very thing which threatens us to provide the skills of the future that our members would ordinarily not be exposed to in our underfunded classrooms. Acadiana was founded by exiles, inclusivity comes naturally and is the reason we chose to open membership to any high school student throughout the Acadiana region and not have tryouts or fees for team members.

We make accommodations for anyone who wants to join including transportation home regardless of the distance and provide meals after school.

Team 3616 recognizes the importance of creating a pipeline of students, mentors, and sponsors to allow the team to continually build upon the success of the prior year. Starting students with the concept of robotics as early as Kindergarten will help create the FIRST path. We have already helped Woodvale Elementary School receive a grant to start a STEM/robotics program in their school. We are currently helping them to launch a FIRST robotics team.

We initiated/started eight FLL teams by assisting through our FAST Start, email or phone, or in person:

3577 Cardinal Robotics, Judice Middle School, Duson,LA

4071 Steel Eagles, Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria,LA

8218 Fatima Warriors, Our Lady of Fatima, Lafayette,LA

18381 Lego Landscape, North Vermillion Middle School, Maurice,LA

25379 Saint Bots, St. Michael School, Crowley,LA

26595 Knight Robotics, Lafayette Christian Academy, Lafayette,LA

27733 CMS METS ROBO, Carencro Middle School, Carencro,LA

34236 City Constructors and 37706 SMJH RoBrains, Saint Martinville Jr. High School, St. Martinville,LA

41546 Planet Changers, Saint Martinville Primary School, St. Martinville,LA

38119 Legeaux Gators, Ascension Episcopal School, Lafayette,LA

Seventh graders can join the First Tech Challenge. Our team Initiated/Started one FTC Team 11200 at Comeaux High; including 7-12 graders from multiple schools. At this level students learn critical thinking, mechanical, electrical, and programming skills in preparation for an FRC team. After this team was formed, we also assisted Saint Thomas More High School to start a FTC Team 15284 and assisted at their school and the FTC qualifier.

FTC Team 16771 and FTC Team 16916 from St. Martinsville (a nearby town) was formed after a STEM coordinator came to Team 3616 for advice on starting a robotics team(s). We gave them a tour of our facility and explained the difference between FIRST Robotics and VEX programs and offered assistance along the way as needed to have successful FIRST teams.

We attend STEM night at Broussard Middle(our feeder school) to showcase FIRST Robotics for 6th - 8th graders and participate in "Open House"& "Eighth Grade Night" to demo the advantages of being a part of a robotics team. Entering 9th graders can join our Team 3616.

FRC Team 3616's Brand is well known around the state of Louisiana and among the FIRST community. We take pride in exhibiting "Gracious Professionalism" at all times. For this reason, our team is asked frequently to come out in the community to share our expertise in the form of presentations, teaching opportunities, and exhibitions.

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We have attended exhibitions with other FIRST Robotic teams, including Dean Kamen. The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) - International Society of Board Experts (ISBE) Cable -Tec Expo, New Orleans. A Global conference where industry leaders connect and create opportunities to move their business forward with a heavy emphasis on "Smart Cities" and automation, > 1,000 attend. We presented at the Louisiana Educational Technology Consortium. This free event was sponsored by Fujitsu America, was led by educators sharing their experiences, challenges and successes with integrating technology into the K-12 environment with > 900 attend.

We host various Robotics Tournaments each year: FTC, FLL, VEX, VEX IQ and a WWII Robotics Qualifier. These events are run by our team and are held at the Comeaux High, Lafayette Science Museum, or the Career Center in Lafayette, LA. Our Team has assisted the Terrebonne School District for the past 2 years hosting FLL Tournaments in their area. The team hosted and ran an FLL Tournament in Houma, LA at "Hope Extreme" which is a charity that provides after school help for disadvantaged youth. It gave the local students an opportunity to compete and to alleviate travel and its associated expenses. We host summer STEM camps annually at our home base school and provide funding for less fortunate students to have an opportunity to attend camp.

We are expanding our brand internationally by sponsoring two schools from Haiti to start robotics teams. We will assist these highly disadvantaged students build the skills necessary to eventually start an FRC team. We will provide field elements, EV3 LEGO Mindstorms, and lesson plans to two schools in Haiti.

Our team was well-represented at the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and Science Teachers Association. (LSTA) State Conference in Baton Rouge, > 500 attend. We explained FTC and FRC robotics to attendees considering robotics programs at their school.

One of our favorite events is the Baton Rouge State Capitol Exhibition. Yearly, we attend a senate session with Senator Hewitt who authored the legislation that created the LaSTEM Advisory Council to promote STEM education to align with industry and workforce needs and create a STEM diploma.

The students are always excited to host and run our Middle School Math Tournament annually. Judging is done by team members, and trophies are made with our X-Carve. Each year 200-250 students attend, grades 6th - 8th. This year we added Algebra I in 9th grade and hope to include other high schoolers in the future.

Team 3616 is committed to introducing STEM/Robotics to students of all backgrounds. We take every chance to be a presence across Louisiana in malls, restaurants, and even festivals.

For several years we've been invited by the Louisiana Craft Guild to have activities for children like painting objects, face painting, EV3 robots kids drive and robot demos at Festival Acadien et Creole, >1000's attend.

It is always a pleasure to be invited to the Saint/Pelicans STEMFEST in the Superdome. Each year, our team presents FLL, FTC, and FRC robots; along with face painting and driving robots, >1000's attend.

We are proud to be part of the spread of FIRST to affect the increase of teams in Louisiana over the last ten years. In 2011, 18 FRC Louisiana teams participated in the Bayou Regional and in 2020 there will be 36 teams participating in this Regional. Also, in 2011, 86 FLL teams were registered in Louisiana and 160 FLL teams from Louisiana were registered in 2019.

Our team works very hard to maintain a constant community presence throughout Louisiana and because of this we continually gain community support. These reasons are why our team is still able to exist and compete. We need to continue to stay on the course to affect the change of the culture in Louisiana to more readily support the intellectual avenues of STEM/Robotics to bring us up to date with the rest of the country and the fast changing world.