FIRST prepares students for STEM future.

FIRST students are significantly more likely to show gains in STEM outcomes than comparison students.

STEM Interest  
STEM Career Interest  
STEM Knowledge  

2x  

By their fourth year of college, FIRST alumni are more likely to:

Declare a major in engineering or computer science

FIRST ALUMNI

68%

COMPARISON GROUP

29%

Young women in FIRST have significant gains in all STEM areas and are more likely to:

Declare a major in engineering or computer science

FEMALE FIRST ALUMNI

51%

FEMALE COMPARISON GROUP

16%

Source: FIRST Longitudinal Study Findings at 8+Month Follow-Up, Brandeis University, March, 2021. All differences statistically significant, p ≤ .05.

"From day one [as a mechanical engineering undergrad], I realized that FIRST had given me two huge advantages: I had a good idea of what I wanted to do, and I already had experience doing it."

Joe Polin  
FIRST alum

FIRST prepares students for life after high school:

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND BEYOND

For questions or more information on FIRST alumni groups and involvement, contact: alumni@firstinspires.org

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FIRST is a global robotics community preparing young people for the future.

Colleges and Companies Value FIRST Experience

Whether education, enlistment, or employment is your next step, FIRST is here to support you on your next endeavor. FIRST alumni stand out to potential employers. They are innovative, leaders, and ready to hire. By participating in FIRST programs, our alumni have gained skills and attitudes needed in today’s workforce, including problem solving, teamwork, innovative thinking, creative thinking, perseverance, and leadership. But don’t take it from us!

DV022
SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW DOES THE FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WORK?

FIRST Scholarships are funded and administered by the scholarship providers. Scholarship providers are primarily four-year colleges and universities, but also include community colleges, technical schools, corporations, and associations.

Each scholarship is unique and has its own award amount, eligibility requirements, application requirements, and application deadline.

Most applications are due the last year of high school (December-April), but applicants should pay close attention to individual deadlines.

Opportunities, applications, and details about available scholarships can be found at www.firstinspires.org/alumni/scholarships.

WHAT IF THERE ARE NO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ME IN THE PROGRAM?

Your FIRST experience is still incredibly valuable when applying for non-FIRST-specific scholarship opportunities. You have hundreds (or maybe even thousands) of hours put into FIRST. You’ve gained all kinds of skills and have stories to answer any essay question thrown at you.

Ask your chosen school what internal scholarship opportunities you may be eligible for. Look for scholarships in your community or through professional associations in related fields.

Check out online scholarship aggregators like fastweb.com, collegeboard.com, and tallo.com.

CAREER

Any meaningful participation you’ve had in FIRST is relevant experience for a work environment, whether you led the programming team, presented to sponsors, or coached a FIRST® LEGO® League team. FIRST is real-world experience and should be presented as such on your resume. Note your role(s) on your team and projects, awards, and achievements, and capture any additional volunteer experience, too.

Companies that support FIRST love hiring FIRST participants and alumni as interns and employees. Seek them out!

Learn more and stay in touch at www.firstinspires.org/alumni.

ALUMNI NETWORKING

We’re here for you as you make your next steps. For resources on crafting your resume, preparing for your next interview, finding local FIRST alumni networking groups, and more, visit www.firstinspires.org/alumni.

Be sure your firstinspires.org dashboard account is under your active email and opt-in to alumni updates so we can stay in touch and share news, tips, and opportunities.

When you become a FIRST alum, you understand just how wide the FIRST network reaches and just how willing and excited that network is to help you achieve your goals. I got involved with FIRST years ago, and it’s been amazing to see the ways in which FIRST and the connections I formed have shaped my journey since.

Naoka Gunawardena
FIRST alum

STAY INVOLVED

There are lots of ways to stay involved with FIRST after becoming a FIRST alum. Volunteering is an awesome way to pay it forward to the next generation. It’s also a chance to continue building valuable skills and meaningful connections to advance your own career and personal development goals.

I have a few hours or few days to give:

As a FIRST event volunteer, you can join the global support system we’ve built to help young people find what makes them come alive – and be re-energized yourself.

I’m looking for a long-term commitment:

As a FIRST team mentor or coach, you can empower young people to think big and feel hopeful for their future. You don’t need particular expertise, but you do need a schedule that lets you make a reliable mentorship commitment throughout the season (varies by program and team).

Learn more at www.firstinspires.org/volunteer.

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