



Chairman's Award Submission Essay

Over the past 5 years we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of people through our outreach programs, sponsorship and media outlets. The 4911 CyberKnights demonstrate and focus on outreach by being role models within our school, community, nationally, and internationally. By embodying the mission of FIRST, we continue to reach out to rookie teams, mentor our Jr. FLL, FLL, and FTC teams, and form partnerships with organizations such as Ronald McDonald House and our sponsors. In order to sustain our team, we launched a recruitment campaign this fall which excited, inspired, and positively impacted the student body. We have inspired the next generation of leaders by developing a K-12 FIRST pipeline at our school and training students at a young age which factors into sustaining our team in the long run. The impact of our team is shown through the strong partnerships and outreach programs we have built with our school, local and national FRC teams, Ronald McDonald House, sponsors, Los Angeles, and Africa. Each year, the CyberKnights have improved through projects such as the recruitment campaign and the 5th Week Unveiling Celebration. Through our outreach, we gather our ideas and share them in the context of the FIRST message, using engineering as a platform to inspire others.

Our past success is demonstrated in the 4 years of sustained FTC experience where we were able to attend the World Championship and improve each year. During the last year of FTC in 2013, the CyberKnights won the coveted Inspire Award at the State Competition and placed 2nd in the world. We had a very strong rookie FRC year in 2014, winning Engineering Inspiration at our first meet, Rookie All-Star at the PNW Championships, and being the only rookie team to play in

elimination rounds in our division at World's. We emerged as role models within our school community by mentoring the lower level FIRST teams at our school. The success our robotics team earns has inspired the school community to start robotics classes at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, increasing the number of students who are impacted by robotics each year. Furthermore, the school donated our current lab space to us to invest in the growing robotics program. In its endeavor to successfully embody FIRST's values and goals, the CyberKnights seek to serve as FIRST ambassadors partnering with organizations in outreach programs. Last year, we focused on one aspect of our team that needed to be improved based on how we performed at each competition, working to revamp our competition pit display, scouting strategies, and team spirit. We focus on building toward our future by working with corporate sponsors to support us as the next generation of leaders.

Our mentors demonstrate their knowledge by leading by example, being role models, and guiding us with their thorough knowledge of their fields of expertise. Mentors inspire us by always being there for us, supporting us in all we do, and guiding us towards the right path throughout the season and throughout our lives. Likewise, we inspire our sponsors and mentors by impressing them with our work ethic, success and accomplishments. Our team has formed and sustained close connections to both our sponsors and mentors over the past years. These partnerships have enabled us to impact our community through our program and improve and grow as a team. We use existing connections with parents, school administrators, media, and business partners to recruit new sponsors and mentors.

One of our current season goals was to improve our school image, so we launched a very successful recruitment campaign and used it both to rebuild and to rebrand our team. The recruitment video displayed the excitement of FIRST and inspired the King's High School student body. Our presence within the school is much more visible as a result of the focus on "busting" many of the myths regarding robotics. Moreover, FRC team members can earn a varsity letter, placing FRC robotics at the same level as a varsity sport and increasing the "cool factor" to other

students. The campaign improved our team by doubling it in size and by taking in many potential leaders; it is documented in this year's business plan which is available for future team members to reference. We have inspired the next generation of leaders by developing a K-12 FIRST pipeline at our school and training students at a young age which factors into sustaining our team for the future.

From the start, our team has always focused our outreach events and programs on STEM, using it as a platform to change the lives of people in the surrounding communities and overseas. We demonstrate an understanding of FIRST by embodying and spreading its mission: to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, engaging them in FIRST programs, and fostering well-rounded capabilities. Documenting all the outreach we do provides new members and other teams with resources they can refer to in the future. We made an outreach binder which we add to each year that consists of pictures, news articles, and emails. The Ronald McDonald House handbook provides a resource for other FRC teams to use to start their own partnership. Our social media and website shares the latest news with people within our community and around the world. Reaching out to the community is the perfect opportunity for us to be role models to rookie teams, our school's K-12 FIRST program, DECA and graphic design students, kids in LA, students in Soroti, and other FRC teams. We are able to inspire people by partnering with our own school, Ronald McDonald House, FIRSTWA, other FRC teams, and CRISTA Assisted Living. These connections provide us with the opportunity to inspire people in both the FIRST community and beyond about engineering. This year our 5th Week Unveiling Ceremony significantly improved both in attendance and in structure. Last year we had 3 teams attend, and this year a total of 10 teams were able to come and participate in the event. Sustaining outreach programs such as Africa, Unveiling, summer camps, and LA is crucial to maintaining our team mission. The CyberKnights strive to be an organization of people impacting the world through FIRST by performing engineering-focused outreach to communities around the world.

Two unique programs that the CyberKnights have maintained are our national and international outreach. In LA we work with inner city youth and lead them away from a culture of gang violence and towards a passion that they can cultivate to become upstanding citizens in their community. Many of the youth have trouble surviving until the age of 25, so introducing them to the world of engineering gives them a way out of gang life. We partnered with a community center called Adventures Ahead to win a \$10,000 Google Grant. This allowed us to buy the supplies necessary to teach NXT programming and WeDo Legos to the students and start and sustain a FLL team there. We take our outreach even further, going overseas to the Beacon of Hope School in Soroti, Uganda. Our goal is to launch a FTC team which would be the first robotics program in their community. We educated the faculty about teaching robotics and hosted robotics camps for the students at the high school. This program has inspired a Seattle Pacific University professor to travel with his family to the school and continue the robotics program that we started. Both programs have been sustained for 3 years.

During post-season, our team plans to explore a partnership with Seattle Urban Academy, a high school for at risk students. We will be lobbying in legislature to promote FIRST and STEM related education in Washington schools. Additionally, this summer we hope to be a part of the Seafair festival with other FRC teams in Seattle to show off our robot and advocate for FIRST. Next fall, we will be participating in the Seattle Mini Maker Faire, a "show and tell" for technological and scientific creativity and inventions. Next school year, the CyberKnights plan to deepen the connections established this year with other programs and classes within our school such as our graphic design class so more students can learn about our team and the FIRST program. Furthermore, next fall during pre-season, our team will be hosting a new Chairman's Award workshop where teams from around Seattle will gather at our school and share resources about becoming a Chairman's team.

The CyberKnights are the embodiment of a Chairman's team because we have a desire, even a need, to take a passion for problem-solving and engineering,

turn it into a driving force to create solutions, and use this motivation to change our world and our future. Our team tagline is “Tomorrow’s Engineers Today” and we embody this by building strong partnerships with sponsors, mentors, and organizations who have supported our team in growing the robotics program and investing in tomorrow’s industry leaders. Our team has demonstrated successful recruitment strategies that future members can use to continue the FIRST Robotics pipeline at our school. We have developed sustainable outreach programs that affect a broad audience, from elementary school children and senior citizens to inner city youth and former child soldiers. We have been role models and ambassadors for FIRST to others through the ripple effect which reaches out to our community, FIRST teams, LA, and Uganda. Our outreach is heavily engineering focused and inspires the younger generation to pursue careers in STEM industries. Everything has been documented in various records for team members in the present and the future to use. We believe that it doesn’t matter who you are, what your interests are, or where you come from—be it Seattle, Los Angeles, or Uganda; when you are exposed to the world of engineering, when you are inspired to develop a passion for it, spreading that culture around the world becomes second nature.