



## Chairman's Award Submission

### Executive Summaries

- 1. Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2014/2015 year and the preceding two to five years.**

Through *FIRST* robotics, we gain many life skills. Most importantly, we learn how to be problem solvers, be responsible, and be leaders through this program. In the last three years, five of our alumni have received scholarships because of their experience in FTC or FRC. Some of our alumni have earned internships with companies such as Electroimpact and World Vision as a result of the role that they had on the team. Being in *FIRST* not only helps us now, but will impact our entire future.

- 2. Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2014/2015 year and the preceding two to five years.**

Once a month we go to Ronald McDonald House with a small group of students. About 15 children who receive treatment from or have a sibling staying at Seattle Children's Hospital come with their parents. We guide these children through STEM activities and crafts. Through this outreach program we have been able to affect over 50 children. We also have hosted several FTC league meets over the past three years, which allowed us to support and inspire over 200 FTC team members and their families.

- 3. Team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message.**

Locally, we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Week Unveiling Event where teams debut their robots. This is the first of its kind in the PNW. Nationally, we traveled to a community center in inner city LA. Working together, we won a \$10,000 Google Grant used to start a FLL team. Internationally, every summer some members

go to the Beacon of Hope School in Uganda teaching STEM and promoting a love of engineering. Our team continuously strives to pay the *FIRST* message forward in various ways.

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

As a result of our successful recruitment campaign this year, our team doubled in size. This attracted many new, inexperienced students which led to the creation of the mentor-mentee system. Experienced team members were given the chance to train and mentor new recruits. This teaches leadership skills for the mentor and allows the mentee to shadow an experienced team member to learn valuable skills. We act as role models to younger students and inspire them to find their own niche on the team.

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

This year we reached out to two rookie teams in the Seattle area and are working to develop long-term relationships with them. We created welcome packages for each team which included a poster, letter of welcome, and snacks. Additionally, we offered help and support to each team by providing resources about outreach, engineering, software, and business on our website. Rookie teams can use this information to form and develop these aspects in their own programs.

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

In the past five years we have helped start three FTC, five FLL, and four Jr.FLL teams at our school. For the 2014-2015 season we have inspired over 100 students to participate in these *FIRST* programs. Over 12% of our K-12 students are involved in *FIRST*! As a result of the growing interest, robotics classes are now offered at all levels within King's Schools. This has effectively formed a *FIRST* pipeline which gets students excited about STEM at an early age.

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

This year, eight of our FRC team members joined an off-season event: FTC in 3 Days. We worked with two other teams and posted daily updates on the website after the kickoff. Other FTC teams could use this website and get an idea for what a robot might look like soon after the kick-off. Last season, we participated in a FTC workshop, working with 10 to 15 teams from the Seattle area. We presented our game strategy and engineering notebook to these FTC teams.

**8. 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).**

During the past 4 years, we have mentored our school's FTC and FLL teams. In September we taught our FLL team about 3D printing and helped them make a 3D figure. They were able to share their knowledge on rapid prototypers and receive feedback from us. We also mentored our FTC teams in the design and fabrication of their robot and aided them in using the machinery and tooling in the lab. We have continued to build a great relationship with these teams, and we all have fun in the process.

**9. Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors.**

We work with a wide range of sponsors; large technical companies such as Electroimpact, GM Nameplate and Microsoft and non-technical companies such as SuperGraphics and Reign Sports Management. We receive a majority of our funding from our school and a local entrepreneur. Some of our partners prefer to provide services and donations instead of direct contributions, such as free coffee on weekends from Starbucks, or the Lodestar Marketing Group helping to create a new website.

**10. Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2014/2015 year and the preceding two to five years.**

We continuously work to strengthen our relationships with our sponsoring partners. We send monthly updates to keep our sponsors informed about our

progress and keep them interested. Our success continues to draw in new mentors and sponsors. For example, Ward Phillips read about our team in the newspaper, and contacted us to be a potential sponsor. We were able to demonstrate our capabilities and earned a generous donation to buy new equipment for our lab. We continue to meet with him each year.

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

*FIRST* is a revolutionary organization inspiring students to develop an interest and pursue careers in STEM. Students apply academic knowledge to real life business and engineering problems. They gain leadership experience and communication skills while collaborating with other teams. Gracious professionalism, a key concept of *FIRST*, entails competing as hard as you can while helping opponents perform their best; the co-dependent relationships created distinguishes *FIRST* from other programs.

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

We have reached out to locations beyond our community. In LA, we lead inner city youth away from a culture of gang violence and introduce them to a new path of innovation and engineering by teaching them how to use NXT programming and WeDo Legos. Over the past few summers we traveled overseas to the Beacon of Hope School in Soroti, Uganda to help launch an FTC team, the only *FIRST* robotics program in their community. We have helped sustain both programs for three years.