



LONG ISLAND

Presented by School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc.

## Inspiring Students to Pursue Careers in Technology

# **FIRST Robotics Competition Fact Sheet**

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, inspire innovation, and foster well-rounded life skills, including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

### History

*FIRST*<sup>®</sup> was founded in 1984 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.



### Impact

When compared with other students, *FIRST* students are:

- More than three times as likely to major specifically in engineering.
- Approximately 10 times as likely to have had an apprenticeship, internship, or co-op job in their freshman year.
- Significantly more likely to expect to achieve a postgraduate degree.
- More than twice as likely to expect to pursue a career in science and technology.
- Nearly four times as likely to expect to pursue a career specifically in engineering.
- More than twice as likely to volunteer in their communities.



## The **FIRST** Robotics Competition

Dubbed a “varsity sport for the mind,” FRC combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program a robot to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real world” engineering that a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.

Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18) get to:

- Learn from professional engineers.
- Build and compete with a robot of their own design.
- Learn and use sophisticated hardware and software.
- Be exposed to design, project management, programming, teamwork, strategic thinking and Coopertition™.
- Earn a place in the Championship.
- Qualify for nearly \$20 million in college scholarships.



## The 2017 Long Island Regional

The 18th Annual Long Island Regional **FIRST** Robotics Competition will be held Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Hofstra University David S. Mack Sports & Exhibition Complex

In the *FIRST* Long Island Robotics programs, there are critical roles for students in everything, from design and build, to computer programming and animation, as well as fundraising, research and community outreach.

Students gain maturity, build self-confidence, learn teamwork and gain an understanding of professionalism. They learn skills along the way that all but guarantee them extraordinary career opportunities in a host of exciting fields.

Competing in the *FIRST* robotics program brings participants as much excitement as conventional varsity sports tournaments. The teams are formed in the fall, usually consisting of 15-25 members. The annual *FIRST* Kick Off is held at Stony Brook University in early January, starting the six-week “build” season. The robots are designed and built (from a common set of parts) by a team of high school students and a handful of engineers/mentors. The game rules are a surprise each year.

The 2017 Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition, which takes place at Hofstra University each Spring, will feature 55 teams competing. All of the participating teams will be cheered on by thousands of fans over two days. The *FIRST* Robotics Competition stages short games played by robots. The students program and remotely control the robots in competition rounds on the field.

Referees oversee the competition. Judges evaluate teams and present awards for design, technology, musical theme of the competition, and sportsmanship.

*FIRST* Robotics Competition alumni are more than twice as likely to expect to have a science- or technology-related career after college. The partnership between academics, community, and industry will build our future employees. It will truly inspire students to pursue careers in technology in our ever-changing world.