

## **FIRST Team 3337, Executive Summary, 2014**

**Describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding two to five years:**

- *88% of our alumni have entered into college or military service, 66% are in a STEM field, and 50% are mentoring FRC Teams.*
- *Our members have: spoken before business, government, and educational leaders, been offered hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships, and have been invited to leadership institutes, and summer STEM programs.*
- *Our mentors have won National Awards, received employment with international corporations, and have been recognized as leaders by their university or workplace.*

**Describe the impact of the FIRST program on your community with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding two to five years:**

- *Our team has over 2,200 volunteer hours where we have changed lives conducting 36 presentations at elementary schools, shopping malls, community events, and business organizations such as the Louisiana Technology Council, Louisiana Engineering Society, and International Society of Automators.*
- *We have held community service projects such as our Video-Game Uproar and have worked with the B.R. Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.*

**Describe the team's innovative or creative method to spread the FIRST message:**

- *Our team has established three innovative initiatives to direct our outreach efforts. Our Government Outreach Initiative, Business Outreach Initiative, and Community Outreach Initiative have allowed us to reach people of all groups and walks of life.*
- *We use print and broadcast media to advance the FIRST message to our community. Our team has appeared in nearly every major news publication and broadcast station in the Baton Rouge area. Through our media presence we have reached over 1 million people.*

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

- *We inspire other FIRST teams to be diverse. Our team is made up of five different ethnicities, a 50/50 gender ratio, students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, and leaders from each of these groups. Our recruitment and retention efforts are centered around maintaining this diversity.*
- *We inspire other FIRST teams to remain active within the FIRST community by volunteering at multi-team events such as the LTC Robotics Gala, the Governor's Technology Awards, and FLL State Championship.*



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

*Through our Panthrobotics Inspire Initiative we have started many teams in the Baton Rouge area.*

- *Our media presence has attracted the attention of multiple schools which have then started programs of their own.*
- *We have demonstrated our robot to high schools to demonstrate the benefits of the FRC program.*
- *We work with our local FIRST organizers to identify and approach interested schools, inviting them to our build site and helping them through the initial registration and fundraising process.*

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

- *Our work with the Foundation for EBR Schools has helped to raise funds for robotics classes at 4 middle schools. There are FLL teams at three of these schools. Two were started due to the class.*
- *We are working with our local FIRST organization (BLaST) to host the first Louisiana FTC off-season competition to recruit new schools to the program.*
- *We hosted a new FLL Qualifier this year to help provide the infrastructure necessary to support more teams in the Baton Rouge area.*

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

*Our Panthrobotics Inspire Initiative was established to motivate FIRST teams throughout our area. Through this program we have created:*

- *The Ambassador Program, which allows us to mentor young FLL members. This program also inspires students to remain in FIRST after they leave elementary or middle school.*
- *The Red Stick Rumble, which provided FRC teams the opportunity to train new members and increase intra-team interaction. It has also helped with team recruitment efforts and morale building.*

## **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).**

*We support our FRC teams and FLL teams in many ways:*

- *We provide weekly phone support calls, build site visits, and design reviews with the FRC and FLL teams we mentor.*
- *We include FLL members in our Ambassador Program to help them better manage their team.*
- *We invite our mentee teams to outreach events with us, inspiring them to bring the vision of FIRST to our community.*
- *We work with LSU's STEP Program to increase the number of mentors available to other teams.*



### **Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

- *62% of our corporate and university sponsors have been team supporters for at least two years. 54% have been team supporters for three years or longer.*
- *Our year-to-year growth of sponsors has averaged 68% over the past five years. Sponsor loss has only averaged 15% per year and is largely due to one-time grant opportunities. This growth has helped maintain team sustainability in terms of capital, services, and mentors.*

### **Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2013/2014 year and the preceding two to five years:**

*Our sponsors provide many resources to our team. In return we provide:*

- *Recognition on our t-shirts, in our pit, on our robot, on our social media sites, and at our team banquet.*
- *Honor through plaques, team-signed game pieces, and local site demonstrations.*
- *Opportunities for our University Partner (the LSU STEP Program) to train new mentors at the Red Stick Rumble and FLL Qualifier.*
- *Recruiting events for our University and Tech College sponsors at School-Wide Career Days and local site tours.*

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

*FIRST, For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is an organization that challenges teams of students from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade to use skills in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics to design, build, and compete with robots in annual events. These teams work with adult mentors to create feats of technology while inspiring others around them. The goal of FIRST is to inspire the next generation of inventors, designers, builders, and innovators.*

### **Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* Judges, if any:**

*Our goal with this year's submission is to demonstrate both what we have done as well as how we have affected our team, school, and community. We believe that while demonstrations, robot builds, mentoring data, and sponsor support are important, they can only be understood within the framework of changing our world for the better. It is in demonstrating this change that we validate our core values of family, excellence, outreach, and fun.*

