

We invite you to don neon safety glasses to see the world through Wildbot eyes. They'll soften the glare from our post-it note Kan-ban whiteboards and walls adorned with our team values. Though we're only in our 3<sup>rd</sup> season, we refuse to let our age define us. Our time is NOW, our goal is obtainable, and our aim is to see Tennessee recognized for developing and nurturing tomorrow's STEM innovators. Already we are revolutionizing our school system, by building strategic partnerships between local businesses, our school system, and FIRST.

Adjust your safety glasses, and look closely. Can you see our vision for the future? A vision of project-based STEM curriculum influenced by local businesses who need a prepared workforce. Last year, our team successfully campaigned at school board meetings for an AP dual enrollment FIRST/STEM Robotics course. This class has provided students' opportunities to build a solar powered electric car and experimental drive trains, vision processing, and collaborate with a company in France.

To lay a sustainable foundation for a technology revolution, we develop and maintain partnerships with sponsors. For the past two years, AISIN Manufacturing has invited us to give robot demonstrations at their facilities. It was inspiring seeing the same engineering and management techniques we are using, in action in their workplace.

Our partnership with Oak Ridge National Lab has grown. We participate in their annual United Way fundraiser, and join their science village at community events such as the Secret City Festival reaching an audience of over 20,000. During the off-season we traveled with the director of ORNL to Chattanooga where he and our program manager spoke to 400 members of the rotary club about 3D printing and FIRST.

Through community outreach our TECHNO vision continues to be realized by hosting open houses throughout the year. This year we debuted a spookTECHular event: Tech or Treat. FIRST Teams and STEM related clubs in Oak Ridge set up booths to hand out candy and entertain trick-or-treaters in a safe environment where they learned about STEM Education. Over 300 students attended.

We also present to the East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC), supporting TNFIRST by stressing the importance of FIRST in our region to federal contractors, Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration representatives, state officials, small businesses, and other local economic development entities.

Jealous of our glasses, the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association invited us to demonstrate our robot during the Isotone Concert to get their hands on them. Our robot danced to Eddlemon's original composition "Ricerca del Roboti". During the reception, we talked with members of the community, spreading the FIRST message and broadening our team's scope.

Elementary students in our community gain TECHNO vision through annual Sumo Robotics Camps. Each summer we write the curriculum, lead presentations, and mentor students for 2 weeks of STEM fun. They learn engineering design principles, build and program NXT robots, and compete with other teams. Last summer, students were so inspired by the camp, they pleaded with parents to buy them robot kits. This led to 2 new FLL teams in our town.

We annually volunteer at the Innovation Valley Science Fair for 3rd-5th graders in Oak Ridge and surrounding counties, running registration tables and escorting students and parents through the event. We run robot demonstrations and entertain waiting students inspiring TECHNO vision.

Even more people are wearing specTECHular glasses in the Greater Knoxville area. In 2012, 3 of our members were interviewed by hit radio station STAR 102.1, where FIRST's message was spread to over 650,000 people. In addition to radio, we use digital media to impact our community through 6 video series and 96+ informative promotional videos. Our view base is approximately 14,425.

In order to grow Tennessee into a TECHNO giant, we aspire to strengthen and sustain TNFIRST by hosting regional events, mentoring and collaborating with teams, and creating a solid foundation for FRC by working closely with Jr.FLL and FLL.

Year-round collaboration with teams in our region strengthens our partnerships. We paired with 3824 for many demos and moderated their website forums. Our collaboration with 1466 and 3140 began in the 2012 off-season when they visited our lab for a design review of drive trains we experimented with. Continuing into the 2013 seasons we Skyped each week, visited their lab during build season for programming help, digitally shared designs and even brought them cookies to boost their morale! We don't only collaborate with teams in TN. WV Team 2614, has been a great partnership in the off-season. We worked together on programming projects, and our team 3D printed and mailed them personalized parts for their off season projects. This build season, 1466, 3824 and we are hosting a week zero scrimmage event to give teams in the region an opportunity to practice with their robots before stop build. Over 10 teams have registered!

In addition to the week zero scrimmage, each year our team hosts an annual Robot Quick Build. In 2013, we ran the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Kick-Off Rookie Quick Build (RQB) in our region. We invited all 9 rookie teams in the KY/TN region. 5 teams were able to attend, and it was a success. We streamed the kick-off video in our facilities and conducted workshops to guide each rookie team in building a working drivetrain. Based on our rookie year experience, teams saved up to 2 weeks of their time and energy, allowing them to focus on more critical elements of the year's competition. We posted our curriculum to the TNFIRST webpage to give the same advantage to those who were unable to attend.

To provide an opportunity for rookie and veteran teams to get to know each other, rekindle old friendships and forge new ones, learn from beta test teams, and showcase robots, we held our first 2014 Meet and Greet and invited all teams registered for the SMR. 17 teams from KY and TN attended the event with over 200% greater attendance than the 2013 Meet and Greet at UTK. Each team presented a 2 minute "Lightning Talk" reviewing their team history and off season. In addition, 1466, 3824, 3675, and 4462 all gave special interest presentations from Beta-Testing to 3D printing. Collaborating with these teams was a bonding experience and also helped us achieve our ultimate goal for the Meet and

Greet: to encourage teams to embrace the FIRST ideals of coopertition and gracious professionalism. Hope the glow of our GP didn't blind you!

To build a sustainable culture of coopertition and technical excellence we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual RQB at the University of TN. The event grew by 400% in 1 year with over 20 teams registered for the special interest and RQB sessions. We collaborated with 3824, 1466, 3675, 4462, and a 4265 Alumni and National Instruments employee to host 2 hour workshops on 3D printing, programming, rules and strategy, and a mentor forum! Not only did the workshop grow in size, but they doubled in efficiency, with sessions ending 4 hours earlier than the previous year.

Hosting the RQB and Meet and Greet events has connected us to a wider scope of teams that we strive to help in anyway possible. We mentor rookie teams by visiting their labs, hosting weekly Skype review sessions, opening our lab during build hours, and giving out contact information, promising we will help out with any complications. Team 4489 took us up on that promise before they left the 2013 RQB. Due to late hours and inclement weather, members of our team opened up their homes, and 4489 students spent the night safely in Oak Ridge where we ate pizza together and bonded. This friendship led to weekly collaborative build sessions in our lab.

In addition to 4489, we have mentored 3 other teams: 3140, 4630, and 4554. We mentored teams during build season with weekly Skype calls. We guided 3140 through programming and 4556 through gearing ratios. 4630 built their shooter in our lab. This build season, in an effort to encourage coopertition and also as resource for teams, we set up a daily live stream of our lab. Mentoring teams has benefitted us too, as we've learned new things while teaching them. Inspiring others has proven to be a rich aspect of FIRST that we treasure and embrace.

We're focused on the sustainment of FIRST across the nation! We've collaborated with 15 year Indiana team 234 on an innovative rookie business plan focused on sustainment. Our teams are creating a bridge between veterans and rookies across FIRST. We

are developing a curriculum where veteran teams would co-host events alongside RQB alumni, thus furthering FIRST sustainment and GP in the spirit of giving back to our region. We aspire to share our RQB curriculum universally with FIRST. We've begun this by obtaining contacts in NJ.

Our vision to sustain TNFIRST is being realized through a strong partnership between FLL and FRC mentorship. We mentor 2 local FLL teams weekly. We have allocated funds to sponsor and facilitate the FLL and FRC programs as well as a new FTC team in the 2014-15 year. In addition, our members have been influential in founding over 20 Jr. FLL teams, creating a progression of feeder FIRST programs for FRC.

We were invited us to demo at the 2012 and 2013 East TN FLL Tournaments. We inspired FLL-ers to aspire to the "Big Leagues" by playing videos of matches, running our robots, and describing to them what awaits them when they're older. Our members also volunteer at both the regional and state levels, as mentors, judges, and referees.

We are proud of the technical excellence, leadership, and GP our team has demonstrated since its inception. We hope in your glimpse through Wildbot eyes our commitment to instilling a passion for STEM and spreading FIRST ideals in our community was glaring. We know we have set our aim high, but are well on our way to achieving it.