

Our students  
became passionate  
about learning  
STEM and sharing  
knowledge.  
*That's a first.*


## **FIRST® Robotics Competition is hands-on STEM learning made fun.**

Imagine a school sport that teaches manufacturing, computer science, and engineering, using robots as equipment. Introducing *FIRST®*, the world's leading nonprofit advancing STEM education — and its 30-year-strong international sport for Grades 9-12, *FIRST®* Robotics Competition.

Picture it! This program takes the excitement of competition into the rigors of science and technology with a themed head-to-head challenge. Under strict rules with limited time and resources, high school teams build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams. Plus, they fundraise to meet their goals, create a team identity, and advance an appreciation for STEM in their local community. This is truly 360° learning.

Since 1989, we've noticed that to prepare youth for the future, you need *More Than Robots®*. That's why the program also instills a mutual respect for other participants and the work they all do. It's what we've come to call *Gracious Professionalism®*.

*FIRST* Robotics Competition helps empower students through simulated career exploration, helping students understand and find their passion. Students can explore and build skills in manufacturing, computer science, electrical engineering, marketing, and data analytics. They graduate, prepared for leadership, confidently innovating and succeeding in all sorts of industries.



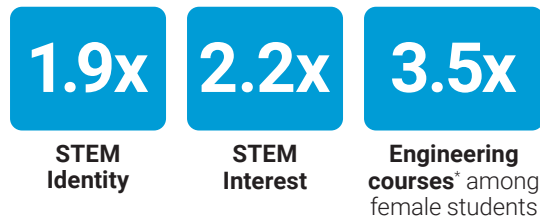
Students agree:  
the more complex  
these real-life  
challenges get,  
the better.

*That's a first.*

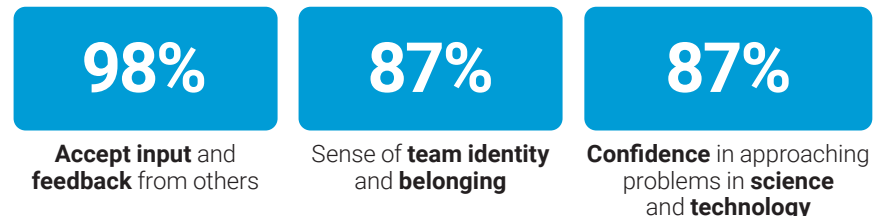
## STEM-as-competition works as a learning strategy. We have proof.

FIRST doesn't just work, it is the gold standard. A multi-year longitudinal study shows the lasting impact FIRST has on students. FIRST students are more likely to be interested in STEM and to go on to have STEM careers. Prepare students of all backgrounds for greater success in the classroom by stimulating that interest.

FIRST students tend to show STEM gains:



FIRST Robotics Competition students show important workforce outcomes:



"x" = times more likely to show gains in, than peers; \* by their fourth year of college; All differences statistically significant,  $p \leq .05$

## Need help getting your students started with FIRST Robotics Competition?

Imagine the possibilities with programs that celebrate your students' natural curiosity, combined with mentors to guide them through new opportunities. FIRST provides resources to ease implementation. This includes funding grants, build guidance, and local support. We'll prepare you to guide students while exploring STEM with real-world challenges.

**Let's talk about getting FIRST to your students.**

Email [firstschoolengagement@firstinspires.org](mailto:firstschoolengagement@firstinspires.org). Learn more at [firstinspires.org/thatsafirst](https://firstinspires.org/thatsafirst)

**For more information about FIRST in your area**

SOURCES: FIRST® Longitudinal Study: Findings at 108-Month Follow-Up, Brandeis University, February, 2023; 2023 FIRST® Robotics Competition end-of-season youth survey.  
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