

2013 Executive Summaries

Impact On Team Members:

- > Up Next, a three year old team, has experienced 23% growth
- > Graduates pursuing a STEM Related Career: 75%
- > Seniors going into STEM-related fields: 100%
- > 100% graduation rate
- > Dean's List Finalist on FIRST scholarship
- > Strong leadership skills built through team structure
- > Inspire confidence and motivate students to reach their fullest potential
- > Students are exposed to local businesses and community leaders
- > Instill outstanding moral standards and virtue in our students

Role Model Characteristics:

- > Commitment to diligence & excellence
- > Close-knit team exemplifying Gracious Professionalism
- > Full participation of all members
- > Mentored coaches for 80+ FLL teams
- > Assisting other teams
- > Developed a successful business plan
- > Student-driven approach emphasizing leadership qualities
- > Robot's code is available on GitHub & Google Code
- > Developing a code library that catalyzes other teams' programming efforts
- > Our beta testing paved the way for this year's FIRST technology

Impact on Community:

- > Liberty Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat, Kansas City Maker Faire for two years
- > Organized "Take a Byte out of Hunger" which attracted 100+ FRC volunteers
- > The team served in the Harvesters Food Bank program three times
- > Led Java programming seminars
- > Developed a leash release mechanism for a quadriplegic
- > Operation Christmas Child
- > Co-hosted 2012 & 2013 KC QuickBuild, mentored an FLL team, volunteered at seven FLL events
- > Formed partnership with Disabled American Veterans

Innovative Methods to Spread FIRST:

- > Started three 4-H robotics projects
- > The team's YouTube channel has reached an international audience with over 16,500 views
- > Got state and federal congressmen excited about FIRST
- > K-LOVE and Air1 radio stations promote Up Next and FIRST nationally through interviews from team members and promote the team on their website
- > Set up informational booths at a local JCPenny store to promote FIRST and its mission
- > All fundraising events are an opportunity to promote FIRST

Strength of Partnership:

- > Up Next Leadership Foundation was created to provide STEM resources for an underrepresented population- the homeschool community
- > Metropolitan Community College generously provides classrooms and the use of their fabrication lab
- > Participated in a sponsor's open house, which attracted local businesses
- > Connect with sponsors via newsletters & appreciation dinners

- > The team celebrates its mentors via a variety of events
- > The students infect friends and family with enthusiasm for FIRST

Communication Methods:

- > Metropolitan Community College has promoted Up Next through their school newsletters and by allowing the team to lead a graduation ceremony
- > Homeschool email lists and e-bulletins
- > Homeschool Co-ops
- > Dropbox
- > Team Email Aliases
- > Member of the FRSee Skype program
- > Team website
- > Chief Delphi forum
- > Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Google+
- > Up next has been in local newspapers five times in the last three years spreading the message of FIRST
- > Progress updates during team meetings

Other Considerations:

- > Up Next makes a significant impact on the unreached homeschool community. Due to the expense and equipment involved with FIRST, most homeschooling students are denied the opportunity to experience STEM in a real world competitive atmosphere. Our students gain real-world experience in the fabrication lab, insight into the design process by using CAD software, and gain critical programming skills. They develop entrepreneurial mindset and form lasting relationships with teammates and sponsors.