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***FIRST* Robotics Team Participates  
In White House Roundtable on Title IX**

*Virginia-Based FIRST Robotics Team Cited As Role Model For All Students*

**MANCHESTER, N.H, June 26, 2009** — [FIRST](#)<sup>™</sup> (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a not-for-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, was honored to have one of its *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams participate in the White House Roundtable marking the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX. The landmark legislation provides equal access to all educational resources for young women in the U.S., including those involved in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

On June 23, FRC Team 116, an all-female team of 10 students jointly sponsored by Epsilon Delta, Herndon High (Va.) High School and NASA's David Lavery, Program Executive for Solar System Exploration, was recognized at the event as an example of how Title IX has safeguarded young women's access to science and math education. The panel included White House Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett, Education Secretary Arne Duncan as well as athletes Billie Jean King and Dominique Dawes, both champions of Title IX.

"The White House Council on Women and Girls and many Title IX advocacy groups play an extremely important role in ensuring fairness and access to education," said Secretary Duncan to the FRC team attending the event. "You serve as role models for younger female students. What's more, you represent exemplars for sustaining interest in math and science among all students."

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The roundtable focused on efforts to encourage women to pursue aspirations in fields that have been historically underrepresented such as science and technology. The White House Council on Women and Girls is working closely with the federal government and all government agencies to understand how to elevate issues related to girls in the country.

**Photo attached:** Team 116 group shot, outside the west wing of the White House with Olympic medalist Dominique Dawes.

### **About FIRST™**

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With the support of many of the world's most well-known companies, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) and *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) for high-school students, *FIRST* LEGO® League (FLL) for children 9-14 years old, and Junior *FIRST* LEGO® League (Jr.FLL) for 6 to 9 year-olds. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

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