

Focusing and reinforcing interest in science and technology

“...never even considered myself in the engineering profession and now I am at a college with a full tuition scholarship, studying to become an engineer.”

“Because of my experience in FIRST, I received an internship at General Motors after I got out of high school, which gave me good job skills ...and allowed me to see what a career in engineering is like.”

IMPACT: FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION EVALUATION

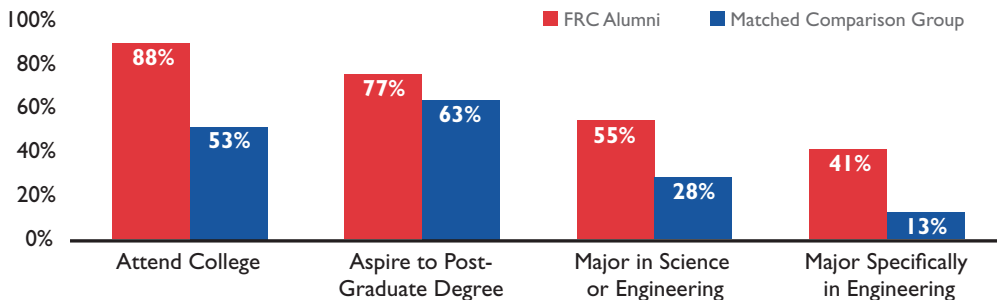
FIRST alumni lead the way to tomorrow’s success

- » 2005 independent study by Brandeis University, funded by the Ford Foundation
- » FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) alumni who graduated between 1999 and 2003
- » Teams from metropolitan areas, including schools serving low-income, inner-city populations
- » Diverse group, including substantial numbers of minorities (56%) and women (41%), and students from families with limited educational background

Building Academic Achievement

Compared to a group of students with similar backgrounds and achievement in high-school math and science, FIRST alumni are:

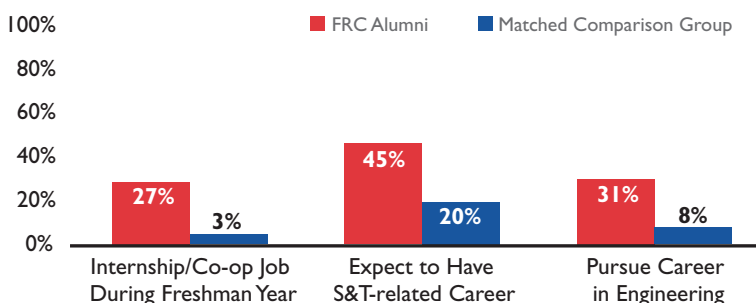
- » Significantly more likely to attend college
- » Twice as likely to major in science and engineering



Enabling Careers in Science & Technology

FIRST alumni are:

- » 10 times as likely to have had an apprenticeship, internship, or co-op job in their college freshman year
- » More than twice as likely to expect to have a science or technology-related career after college



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IMPACT: *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION EVALUATION

Improving attitudes towards science and technology, and building self-confidence

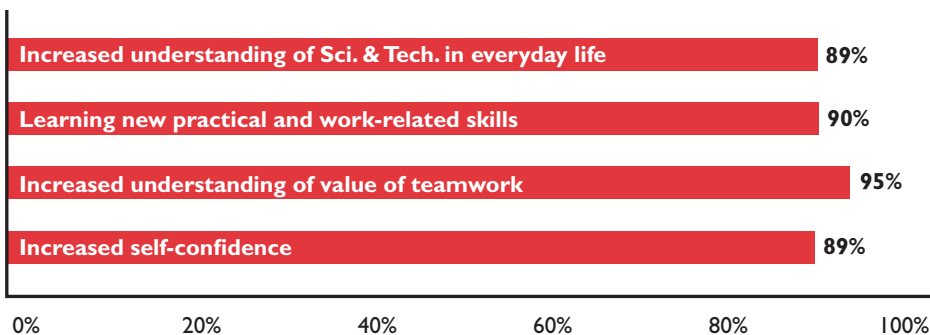
“The most important part of the *FIRST* experience for me was being part of a team and getting to know, meet and interact with new people on a personal and professional level.”



Inspiring Students

By their own accounts, *FIRST* helped participants:

- » Experience the world of science and technology in a way that expanded their interest in the field
- » Learn critical life and work-related skills
- » Build the confidence and relationships they needed to move forward with their education and careers



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Source: “More Than Robots: An Evaluation of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Participant and Institutional Impacts,” an independent study funded by the Ford Foundation and conducted by the Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Complete study is available at www.usfirst.org.

Matched comparison group drawn from Beginning Postsecondary Student Survey, a sample of college-going students available through the U.S. Department of Education.