



## Annual Report 2019-2020



## Our Vision

*FIRST* North Carolina shares the vision of *FIRST* –  
**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology:  
To transform our culture by creating a world where science  
and technology are celebrated and where young people  
dream becoming science and technology heroes.

Dean Kamen – *FIRST* Founder

# Our Mission

*FIRST* North Carolina shares the vision of *FIRST* to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

*FIRST* Programs are supported by two organizations in North Carolina. North Carolina A&T State University manages *FIRST*LEGO League Challenge & *FIRST*Tech Challenge. *FIRST* North Carolina manages *FIRST*LEGO League Discover, *FIRST*LEGO League Explore, & *FIRST*Robotics Competition



# Who We Serve

In North Carolina,  
*FIRST* programs by the numbers:

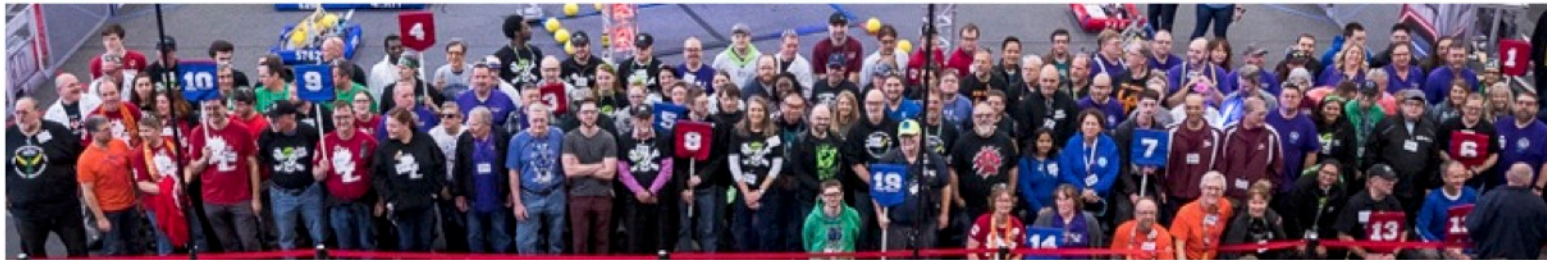
**13100+** Student Participants

**2600+** Adult Mentors

**2000+** Volunteers

**Countless hours of fun!**

*FIRST* North Carolina celebrated the *FIRST*RISE and the *FIRST*Robotics Competition Infinite Recharge season through a Virtual Awards Celebration in April 2020.



# Our Commitment

*FIRST* North Carolina is committed to ensuring that every student in North Carolina has access to a high quality *FIRST* experience.





## It's never too early to discover STEM!

Through hands-on construction, teamwork, imagination, and fun with LEGO elements, the *FIRST LEGO League Jr.* programs challenges teams of students in grades PreK-4 to explore a real-world scientific concept. In small groups, children build LEGO models, document their journey in an Engineering notebook, and share their learning through posters and a celebration event. Throughout the season, adult teachers and coaches provide guidance and inspiration to our youngest learners!

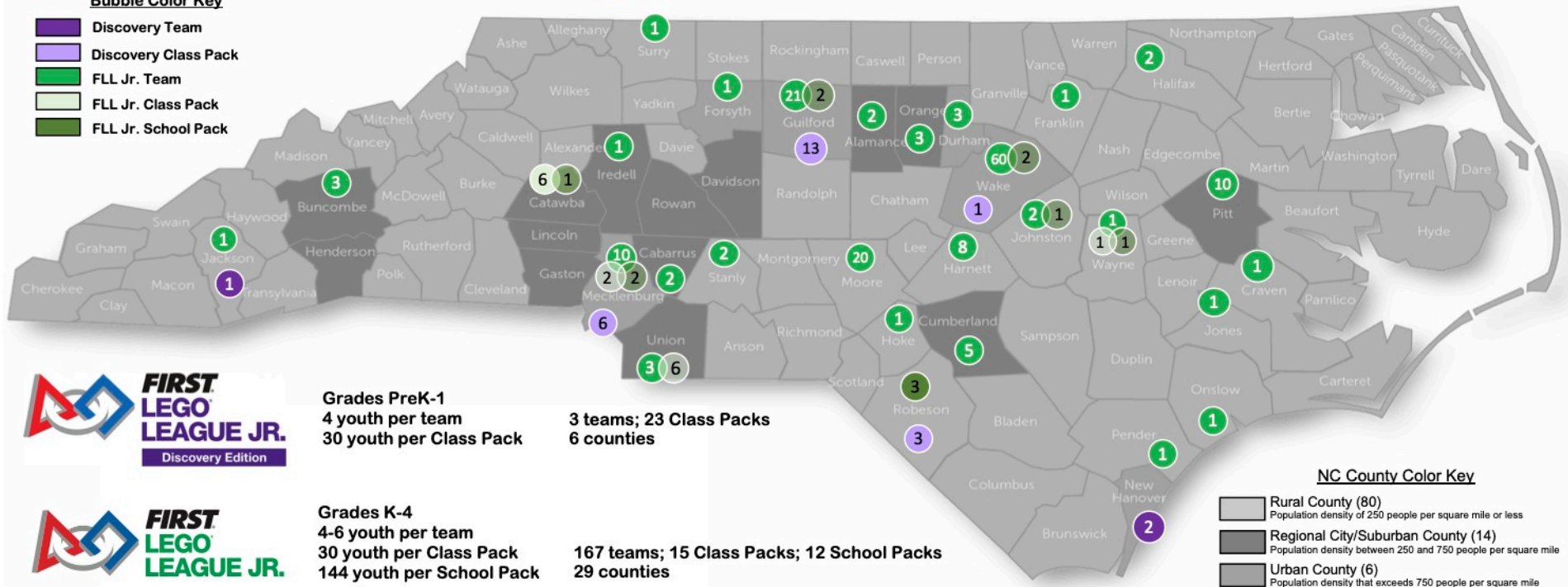


**3870**  
Youth Participated



### Bubble Color Key

- Discovery Team
- Discovery Class Pack
- FLL Jr. Team
- FLL Jr. Class Pack
- FLL Jr. School Pack





**The excitement of sports, the rigors of science!**

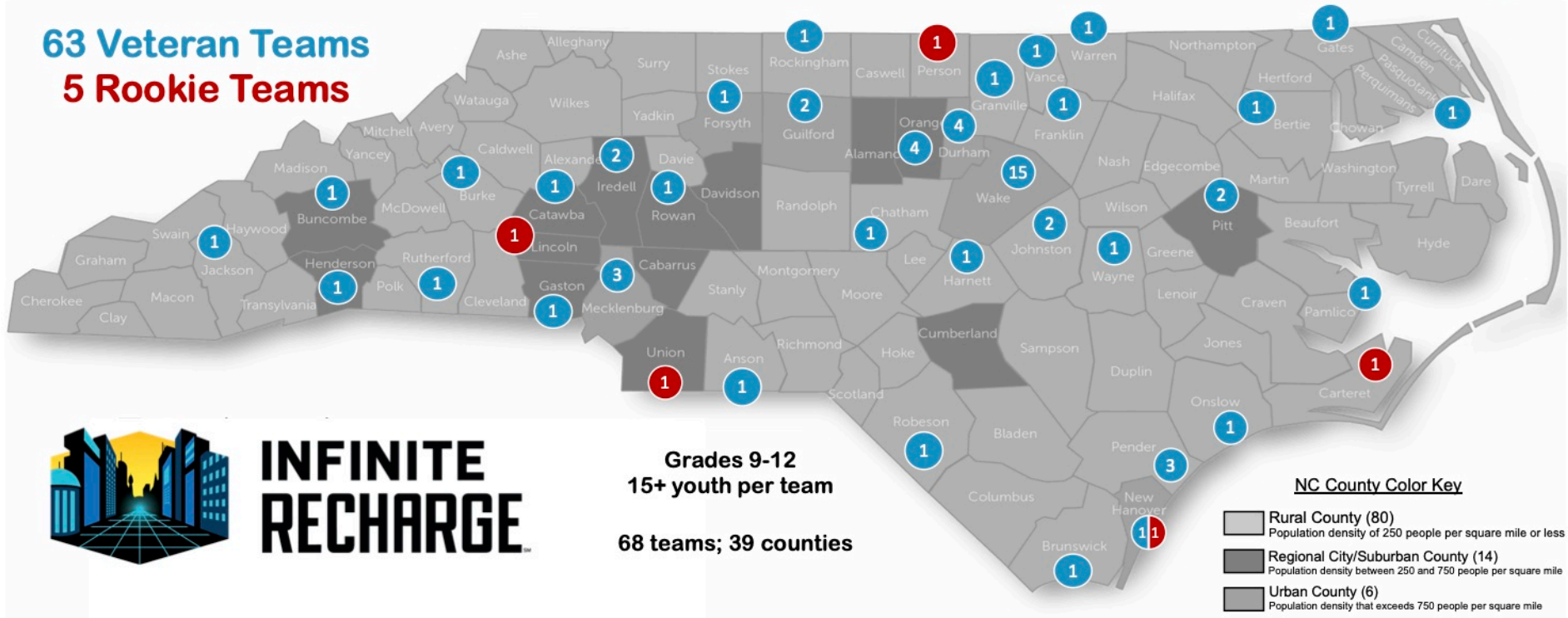
Under strict rules, limited resources, and the guidance of volunteer mentors including engineers, teachers, business professionals, parents, alumni and more, teams of 25+ students have just six weeks to build and program robots to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. They must also raise funds, design a team “brand”, hone teamwork skills, and perform community outreach. In addition to learning valuable STEM and life skills, participants are eligible to apply for 80+ million in college scholarships.



**2380 Youth Participated**



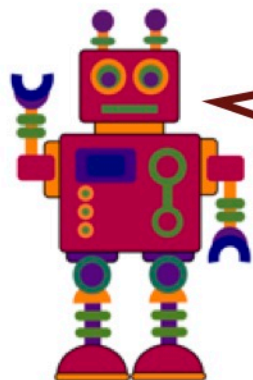
**63 Veteran Teams**  
**5 Rookie Teams**



**INFINITE  
RECHARGE**



## In their words...

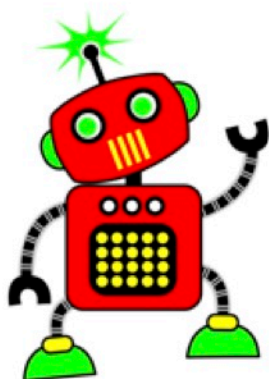
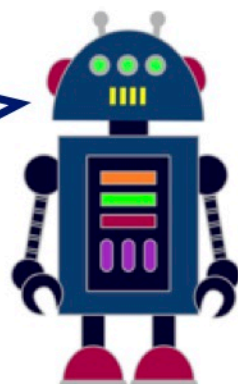


"In the *FIRST* programs, we see the **problem-solvers**, **creative thinkers**, and **collaborative colleagues** our workforce needs to excel in the future."

~Duke Energy

"Personally, I have seen **huge growth** in my students who have participated in *FIRST* robotics. The students have **far surpassed my expectations** of what they could learn and experience through *FIRST*."

~NC CTE Teacher



"Because of my experience with *FIRST*, I am preparing for an **apprenticeship** with a **local company**."

~NC FRC Student

## Board of Directors

Chair	Kevin Gordon	Collins Aerospace
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Widmann	Extreme Networks
Co-Chair-Elect	Melissa Wittner	Inmar, Inc.
Secretary	David Kaiser	NC Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation
Treasurer	Deborah Porto	Johnston Community College
	Ramesh Akkiangadi	Honda Aircraft Company
	Claudia Anderson	TE Connectivity
	James Conrad	UNC Charlotte
	Herman Holt	UNC Asheville
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	Merwan Mehta	ECU
	Bob Nelson	JAEGGAR
	Mark Rohlinger	Bosch Rexroth
	Brandon Rose	John Deere
	Laurie Schaefer	IBM
	Alex Seidita	MetLife
	Tristan Springmeyer	Credit Suisse
	Dan Stancil	NC State University
	Paul Yanik	Western Carolina University

## Staff

President	Marie Hopper
Program Director	Julia Wagner
Event Manager	Tom Gerber

## A Note from the President of *FIRST* North Carolina

The 2019/2020 season will be one for the history books. While we were disappointed that we could not finish out the in-person FRC competitions, we are incredibly proud of our community. Our teams quickly pivoted to making and donating supplies for essential workers on the front-lines of the pandemic. They created virtual workshops and activities for younger students. They found innovative and creative ways to support each other as well as their friends, families and communities. This year, they truly showed that *FIRST* is more than robots!

~ Marie Hopper

## Financials

Year Ended June 30, 2020

Revenues	
Contributions	\$642,856
Other Revenue	\$35,844
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$678,700</b>
Expenses	
Program Expenses	\$554,820
General/Administrative Expenses	\$22,048
Fundraising	\$17,529
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$594,397</b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$328,055</b>

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS *FIRST* NORTH CAROLINA SPONSORS!

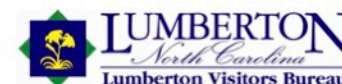
### MASTERMIND



### LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY



### CAPTAINS OF INNOVATION



### COLLABORATORS



### FRIENDS OF THE FUTURE








For more information:

[firstnorthcarolina.org](http://firstnorthcarolina.org)

[info@firstnorthcarolina.org](mailto:info@firstnorthcarolina.org)

336.375.3861

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