



FIRST Equity & Inclusion Financing Initiative for
FIRST in Upper Midwest
(FEI FI FO FUM GRANT)

FIRST in Upper Midwest

September 17, 2023

Re: Grant Award for FEI FI FO FUM Equity and Access Initiative

FIRST in Upper Midwest (FUM) is pleased to announce the recipients of the latest round of *FIRST* Equity & Inclusion Financing Initiative for *FIRST* in Upper Midwest (FEI FI FO FUM) grants.

The FEI FI FO FUM Grant Program is a funding opportunity that provides FUM *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams with a small grant to implement a project that will make changes to culture intended to increase the participation and success of underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations in *FIRST* Robotics in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The following FRC teams were awarded grants:

- [Team 1816](#): “The Green Machine”, Edina High School, Edina, MN, and [Team 2177](#): The Robettes, Visitation School, Mendota Heights, MN. \$1,500 to enhance an inclusive community at FRC regional events that supports girls and women by catalyzing conversations through the exchange and gifting of handmade bracelets that promote core values and gracious professionalism in robotics.
- [Team 2129](#): Ultraviolet, Southwest High School, Minneapolis, MN. \$1,125 for a series of girls nights in the shop sessions to connect girls at Southwest High School to STEM.
- [Team 2823](#): The Automatons, Highland Park Senior High School, St. Paul, MN. \$450 for new recruitment sessions with the Science club, GSA, Union Latina, Girls club, and/or other interested clubs in order to recruit more girls and young women to the team.
- [Team 3206](#): Royal T-Wrecks, Woodbury High School, Woodbury, MN. \$830 to strengthen a culture of inclusion on the team through the display of welcoming signs in their shop, a full team discussion on team core values, and the development of an outreach event.

- [Team 3407](#): Wild Cards, Mounds View Senior High School, Arden Hills MN. \$1,500 to build a small, more accessible outreach demonstration robot and develop new outreach activities to recruit youth with disabilities and/or youth receiving special education to robotics.
- [Team 4674](#), Robojacks, Bemidji High School, Bemidji, MN. \$1500 to establish a Unified Robotics team and host a Unified Robotics competition.
- [Team 5653](#), Iron Mosquitos, Ely Memorial School & North Woods School & Northeast Range School, Babbitt, MN. \$1500 for the design and implementation of a multi-day STEM and Ojibwe Camp for the Boys and Girls Clubs where students will create a cultural project that demonstrates cultural learning.
- [Team 7028](#), Binary Battalion, St. Michael – Albertville High School, Albertville, MN. \$1,425 to create a pipeline of success for girls and young women into FRC through the support of FLL Explore, FLL Challenge, and FTC teams and purchase of a Romi Robot for an outreach event with the Girl Scouts.
- [Team 7068](#), Mechanical Masterminds, St. Francis High School, Saint Francis, MN. \$1,000 for an evening activities bus and a financial support program for financially impacted students, parents, and mentors.

To be awarded a grant, teams submitted a grant application proposing a new and creative proposal to make positive change that increases the participation and success of underserved, underrepresented and/or vulnerable populations in robotics. This program represents an important ongoing effort to raise awareness of equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts by *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Funding is available for additional FEI FI FO FUM grants to FRC teams. Additional information is available on the [FUM website](#).