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

FIRST in Upper Midwest
February 13, 2024
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 3134: Accelerators, Cass Lake Bena High School, Cass Lake, MN. $1,299 to purchase Spike Prime and expansion sets to bolster their FLL program for middle school students.
- Team 3291: Au Pirates, Park Center Senior High School, Brooklyn Park, MN. $1,200 to develop new outreach events where established racial affinity groups at the school are invited to an event in their shop.
- Team 3926: MPArors, Mounds Park Academy, St. Paul, MN. $500 to support team celebrations of cultural observances that occur during the robotics season.
- Team 5271: Open Circuits, Open World Learning Community, St. Paul, MN. $200 for the Gender Ally Project, which will increase diversity and inclusion of girls and women in the FRC community.

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. Additional information is available on the [FUM website](#).