

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 220

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the Louisiana teams that participated in the 2018 FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas.

WHEREAS, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a national nonprofit organization that operates afterschool robotics programs for young people ages six to eighteen in the United States and internationally, impacting more than 500,000 young people around the world each year; and

WHEREAS, ten years of evaluation data document that FIRST participants show a statistically significant higher interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); increased involvement in STEM-related activities; greater STEM identity; higher levels of STEM knowledge; and greater interest in STEM careers than students who do not participate, and the impact is even greater for female students; and

WHEREAS, FIRST participants are more motivated to do well in school, more likely to take a challenging math or science course, and show improved problem solving, time management, conflict resolution, and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, FIRST alumni express a greater interest in going to college and are twice as likely to major in science or engineering as other students; and

WHEREAS, FIRST robotics competitions are designed to foster a love of science and engineering and inspire young peoples' interest and participation in science and technology; and

WHEREAS, a FIRST robotics competition is as close to real-world engineering as a student can get, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology (the ultimate "Sport for the Mind"), with participants calling it "the hardest fun you'll ever have"; and

WHEREAS, the annual FIRST championship is the culminating event for FIRST participants with team activities, efforts, and competitions held throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, seven teams from Louisiana, with their mentors, traveled to Houston, Texas, in April 2018, to participate in the 2018 FIRST Robotics World Championship activities and pit their skills and mental agility against the best and brightest from across the United States and the globe; and

WHEREAS, these FIRST teams and their mentors deserve recognition and respect for their hard work, dedication, commitment, love of science and technology, and quest for excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and highly commend the Louisiana teams that participated in the 2018 FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas, as follows:

- (1) Torbotics, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2080  
Hammond High Magnet School, Hammond, Louisiana  
Danny Thomasson, Team Mentor
- (2) S.S. Prometheus, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2992  
Mandeville High School, Mandeville, Louisiana  
Michael Sonnier, Team Mentor
- (3) Knightling Boltz, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 5997  
East Iberville High School, St. Gabriel, Louisiana  
Victoria Hogan, Team Mentor
- (4) Redfish Robotics, FIRST Tech Challenge Team 9958  
Redfish Robotics Foundation, Slidell, Louisiana  
Michael Clark, Team Mentor
- (5) Dark Matter, FIRST Tech Challenge Team 10337  
Mandeville Junior High School, Mandeville, Louisiana  
Tracey Guidry Martinez, Team Mentor
- (6) Team Phoenix, FIRST LEGO League Team 3732  
University of Louisiana Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana  
Anne & Doug Williams, Team Mentors

- (7) The Flying Ninjas, FIRST LEGO League Jr. Team 11670  
Homeschool Team, Bush, Louisiana  
Janelle Lorenzen, Team Mentor

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE