

CHS's FIRST Robotics Team Qualifies for World Championship

The Carmel High School FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team #5943, the Bad News Gears went to the Worldwide FIRST Championship in Detroit, Michigan at the end of last month. This is the first time the team competed in the international competition. Registration fees (\$5,000) for the event are paid for by NASA.

The Bad News Gears qualified for the 2019 FIRST Championship after receiving the prestigious "Engineering Inspiration Award," earlier this year at the Tech Valley Regional 2019 FIRST Robotics Competition, hosted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. This award recognizes the team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers both within their school and their community.

The award criteria included the extent and inventiveness of the team's efforts to recruit students to engineering, the extent and effectiveness of the team's community outreach efforts, and the measurable success, passion, knowledge and commitment of those efforts. The Carmel team was recognized for developing and implementing a six-week program for elementary students, and for assisting two neighboring high schools in launching their teams--The Putnam Valley Schockbots and the Brewster Cyberbots. In addition the team worked



Bad News Gears members include: Richard Abele, Antonio Artigas, Adrianna Beers, Ryan Calhoun, Madeline Donohue, Christopher Figura, Josie Garrity, Zack Ginesin, Callum Halliday, Seth Kowitz, Salvatore Lagana, Alejandrina Marte, Kaitlyn Musial, Kate O'Sullivan, Tyler O'Toole, Hailey Sango, Sergio Vaccaro, Matthew Wilcha, Steven Carlson (Alumni), Don Saldicco (Advisor) Jenn Saldicco (Co-Advisor)

with e-Nable, a program that uses modern 3D technology to print prosthetic hands for children with disabilities.

For 30 years, FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) has been the world's leading international youth organization with the expressed goal to develop ways to inspire students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Its philosophy is expressed by the organization as cooperation and gracious professionalism. FIRST has evolved into a global movement, engaging millions of people and is a proven game-changer in preparing kids to solve the world's greatest problems. FIRST programs inspire innovation and leadership through engaging, hands-on robotics challenges developed to ignite curiosity and passion

on me was the growth of my team. I have seen this before, but not to this degree. The energy and sheer determination displayed by the students was palpable. I'm so proud of their achievement!"

Board of Education trustee Tara DeTurris who works in the technology field and has lent a hand to the team said, "I am impressed with the commitment these students have to engineering and each other. Having had the chance to work with this team I am so proud of how much they have grown individually and as a team."

Team members also speak highly of their FIRST team experience. "FIRST robotics is an opportunity to bring people of all different backgrounds to a new world to bond over something they all have in common," said Josie Garrity, a Junior at Carmel High School, and 3rd year team member.

Carmel's Bad News Gears was founded by FIRST coaches Don and Jenn Saldicco in 2015 with just eight team members. Since that time the team has tripled in size, with girls comprising over half the membership. From the beginning, the team's mission has been to engage, impact, and inspire everyone they come in contact with; whether that is with their own team members, people in their community, or the students in their school. The team's impact is clearly evident: 95% of team

alumni come back to serve as team mentors and 100% have chosen STEAM-based fields of study in college.

The team has been consistently rewarded for their efforts. In their first year, they received the Rookie Inspiration Award at the 2016 NY Tech Valley Regional competition. This year, in addition to the Engineering Inspiration Award, the team received the "Gracious Professionalism Award" at the Hudson Valley Regional competition at Rockland Community college.

PROVIDED PHOTOS



Left to right: Kaitlyn Musial, Don Saldicco, Matt Wilcha

in students in grades K-12.

For this year's challenge, "Destination: Deep Space," (presented by the Boeing Company), the Bad News Gears built a robot that had to traverse a planet with unpredictable terrain and weather patterns to collect as many cargo pods as possible, all within two minutes.

Working on this year's project for competitions has been especially rewarding for the team. "Aside from the tremendous hands-on learning and real-life STEM skills implementation, students learned more about collaboration and workplace professionalism on this year's project than they did the entire school year," says Don Saldicco, a Carmel High School technology teacher and the team advisor. "What made the biggest impact

CHS principal Lou Riolo summed up this way: "What the team and advisors have achieved in their community outreach to surrounding districts is simply inspiring. The corporate and community support for our team, which is led by Jenn & Don Saldicco is nothing short of amazing."

Bad News Gears strategically recruit STEM-based companies as sponsors. Sponsors not only provide funds but also experience and mentorship, creating a symbiotic relationship. Many sponsors offer internship and employment opportunities for students upon graduation. Among these alliances are GlobalFoundries, Haefely Hipotronics, Insite Engineering, Fryer Machine Systems, and many others.

Riverside Art Auction

Garrison Art Center
Saturday May 11th
2019

9:00-1:00 observe painters at various sites
3:30 viewing & refreshments in galleries
5:00 Live Auction on Garrison's Landing

Silent Auction bidding through May 19

Art River Plein Air Live Auction

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