



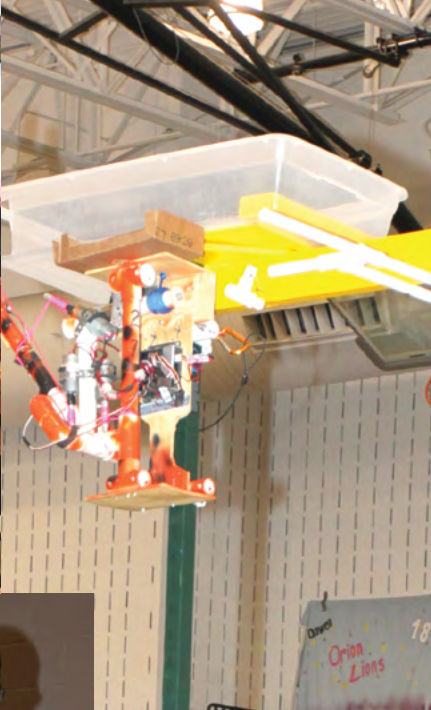
2012 Annual Report

Middle and High School Robotics Program



20th Anniversary
Inspiring Future Generations of Engineers, Scientists
and Technology Experts Since 1993

Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology



BEST is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, technology, and math through participation in a sports-like, science-and engineering-based robotics competition.



Our Principles

- Students are the primary participants and benefactors. BEST is an extracurricular academic experience that engages students through teamwork, self-directed learning, apprenticeship, and problem solving.
- Students perform all of the work. Team mentors—engineers, technical professionals and scientists from industry—serve as guides to shepherd students through the engineering design process.
- Schools participate at no cost. There are no entry fees or kits to purchase associated with the BEST competition. Schools must fund their travel costs, team shirts, and other team enhancements.
- BEST is an equal opportunity program. Any public, private, or home school may participate in BEST.

The Gap

In the 20 years of BEST we have given students a path, a path to their future, a path strewn with gaps. Maybe they don't realize the importance of these gaps, but we do. For without this realization on our part, BEST will cease to be BEST.

In BEST, students encounter problems. Solving these problems is not our goal, how to approach these problems, is. We don't give the student everything to solve these problems. There is a gap, a gap we intentionally provide. Crossing that gap requires students to innovate, to create, and to discover the importance of crossing gaps, both professionally and personally.

In whatever aspect of Engineering, Science, or Technology they choose as their career, there will be these gaps waiting for them. Crossing these gaps will be their challenge, their vocation, and their very reason for doing what they do. We have discovered we are individuals who expect these gaps and have a talent for crossing them. We have even discovered we are individuals who covet the crossing. We want to find students who also may share this talent, this passion and show them that there is a career for crossing gaps.

But it is this very talent, this very joy of being able to cross these gaps and arrive at a solution that makes it so very difficult for us to create a problem that contains gaps. Our nature is to provide the method and materials



we know will take a student across gaps. But, against our very nature, we do not. We know that if we provide everything there will be no problem, no gap to be crossed. A gap is caused by something missing and we make sure something is missing. We provide the gap. For like us, students reach this gap, and like us, they smile.



Steve Marum and Ted Mahler
Co-Founders

Over the course of my personal involvement with the BEST program, I have had to ask myself the same question each year at kick-off: "How are the kids going to do THAT?!" This year was no different. At the unveiling of the space elevator concept, the audiences were often very hushed and then we heard an eruption of excitement and noise as teams accepted yet another amazing challenge. Too often in our communities we hear of individuals and groups giving up when presented with an obstacle. This does not happen at BEST.

Watching students reach higher (literally) than ever before, we were able to see strong problem solving in action. Our volunteers, hub directors, mentors and coaches reached new heights of success as well. Working together toward a common goal of learning success is just one facet of the success of the BEST Robotics program. We are all grateful for the hard work everyone commits to across the program.



The priority of the Board of Directors this year has been focused on a sustainable future for the organization. A major part of that sustainability is the need to constantly add more leaders to the organization – these are individuals who are willing to serve in positions that direct the program as well as take roles in key committees within the organization. Thank you to those who have willingly volunteered their time to serve. This is what makes the organization strong.

As part of the effort toward a more sustainable future we have hired Mr. Greg Young (Capitol BEST) as our Director of Operations and Ms. Rhonda Sherrell has joined the team in an administrative capacity to keep the organization running smoothly. We are especially grateful to Ms. Janne Ackerman (CoCo BEST) for accepting the position of Interim Executive Director as we search out a new Executive Director for the organization. In developing this national office, we are seeking to create a more uniform organization that volunteers and participants can rely upon for day to day operations assistance.

Lastly, our strategic planning committee has been striving to assess our program and identify the areas where we can grow and improve to better meet the needs of the BEST community. Having studied the results, the board of directors continues to refine our organization goals for sustainability. Regardless of changes being made, the mission and basic principles of the program – student-designed, student-built, student-driven robots at a cost that allows any school to participate – remain paramount and constant.

Yours in BEST,

Eric Heiselt

President, BEST Board of Directors

Program Overview

- **BEST** originated in 1993 when Ted Mahler and Steve Marum, two engineers with Texas Instruments in Sherman, Texas, started the program as a competition for rural schools in the area. The first competition hosted 14 schools and 221 students. In fall 2012, over 875 schools and 18,000 students participated.
- **BEST Robotics, Inc.** (BRI or BEST) incorporated as a 501(c)3, non-profit organization in 1998.
- **BEST** is a volunteer-driven organization, with over 10,000 people serving as “hub” (local competition site) organizers, event personnel, team mentors, and competition judges.
- **BEST** licenses use of its program to groups that want to start and host the program in their communities. Any group—companies, school systems, two- or four-year colleges or universities, professional engineering societies, or individuals—can start a hub. Funding for a hub must be raised by the local organizing group.

Competition Overview

- The competition itself is comprised of two divisions: **Robotics** and the **BEST Award**. All teams compete in the Robotics division. The BEST Award competition is optional for participating schools.
- Robotics - Each team designs and builds a radio-controlled machine to accomplish defined tasks in a game-type format. In September six weeks before the competition, the teams gather at local hub sites for Kick Off Day where they receive identical kits of equipment (e.g., motors, R/C unit, batteries, processing board, etc.) and raw materials (e.g., plywood, PVC pipe and connectors, screws, bolts, nuts, glue, etc.) from which to build their machines. Teams also receive a detailed set of game rules and a demonstration of the game on the playing field. The machines they build cannot exceed 24 pounds, must fit within a 24-inch cube at the starting position, and must be built only from the materials provided in the kit.
- BEST Award teams are judged on the following: Project Engineering Notebook; Marketing (Oral) Presentation; Educational Display; Judges Interview; Spirit and Sportsmanship; and Robot Performance. Winning the BEST Award is considered the highest achievement any team in the competition can accomplish.

Program Features

BEST inspires students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology. This is critical given the dearth of engineers that industry is experiencing now and will continue to experience in the future.

BEST helps prepare students to be technically proficient in tomorrow’s workforce.

BEST teaches teamwork and leadership development as well as analytical, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.

BEST students experience “design-to-market” product development – experience that is transferable to all engineering and science disciplines and career pursuits

BEST provides participating students recognition and acclaim typically reserved for their peers in sports.

BEST enhances teacher effectiveness.

BEST is an outstanding educational program accessible to all students, schools, and communities.



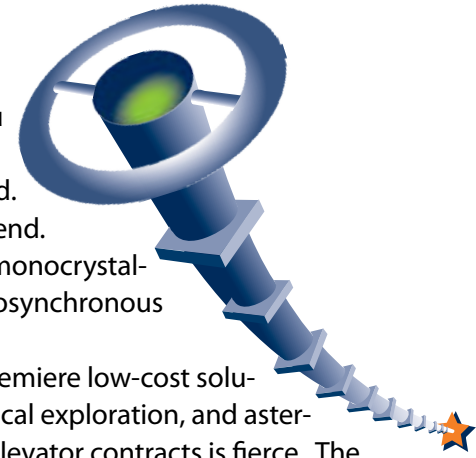
The Story Behind the 2012 Game, “Warp XX”

Educational Theme: The Space Elevator

The Story Line

Hours before your cargo ship arrives at an equatorial island in the Pacific Ocean, you can see a thin, bright, vertical line bisecting the sky. As the ship draws closer, you see that the base of the line terminates at a large building that occupies much of the island. Your gaze follows the bright line from the building upward, but you cannot see its far end. The line is a ribbon of super-strong carbon nanotube grown around an unobtainium monocrystal-line structure and stretches from this equatorial island up to the anchor asteroid in geosynchronous orbit 62,000 miles above you.

Often hailed as the eighth wonder of the modern world, the Space Elevator is the premiere low-cost solution for lifting cargo out of Earth’s gravity. It will expand lunar colonization, exobiological exploration, and asteroid mining. It has already spawned many new industries, and competition for Space Elevator contracts is fierce. The first stop on the Space Elevator is Midway Station, located just above the atmosphere, but well below geosynchronous orbit. Midway Station is a cargo transfer depot, solar power station, and a home away from home for the Space Elevator supervising engineers. The Space Elevator program needs unmanned robotic vehicles for routine cargo delivery and additional station expansion and construction.



BEST Team Challenge

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, BEST Robotics, Inc. (BRI) has published a request for proposal (RFP) for the production of efficient robotic lifting vehicles for the Space Elevator program. As suppliers of robotic systems, BEST teams have six weeks to respond to the BEST RFP with a technical design and development document (engineering notebook) and prototype demonstration system (robot). BRI judges will perform a technical and process evaluation of each team’s document. This evaluation will be followed by a “fly-off” competition (Hub Game Day) consisting of head-to-head testing of the prototype systems. At the end of the “fly-off”, BRI judges will select a limited number of teams to advance to the next phase. Advancing teams will have approximately three weeks to revise and resubmit their document and prototype system. BRI judges will evaluate revised documents and conduct a second “fly-off” competition (Regional Championship). The BEST teams with superior designs and top-performing prototypes will be awarded a coveted Space Elevator contract.

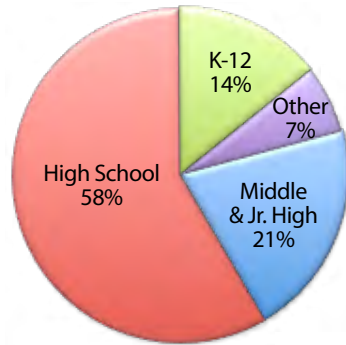
Team Objectives

Design and build a prototype robotic system to transport cargo and equipment on the Space Elevator tower to and from Midway Station. The teams with the most success demonstrating the follow tasks during the “fly-offs” will win one of several follow on contracts.

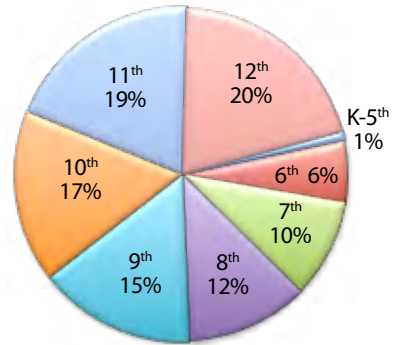
Cargo	Task Required
Habitation Module	Lift from Base Station and install at Midway Station for added crew housing
Solar Panels	Lift from Base Station and install panels at Midway Station for increased power production
Waste Cargo Balls	Transfer from Base Station to cargo ship for disposal
Light Cargo Balls	Lift from Base Station and deposit in cargo bin at Midway Station
Empty Fuel Cells	Transfer from Midway Station to Base Station for refueling
Full Fuel Cells	Lift from Base Station to Midway Station
T-Structure	Lift from Base Station and install at Midway Station for future expansion

2012 Demographics

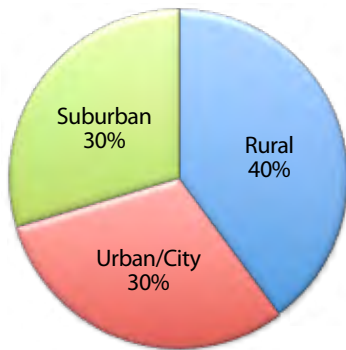
School Type



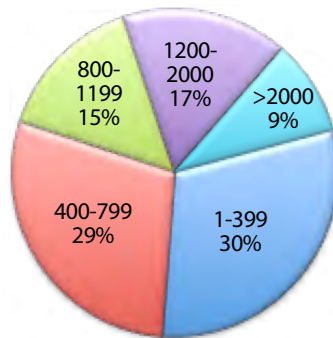
School Grades



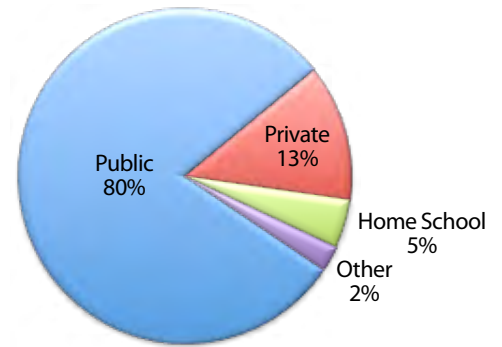
School Location



School Student Population

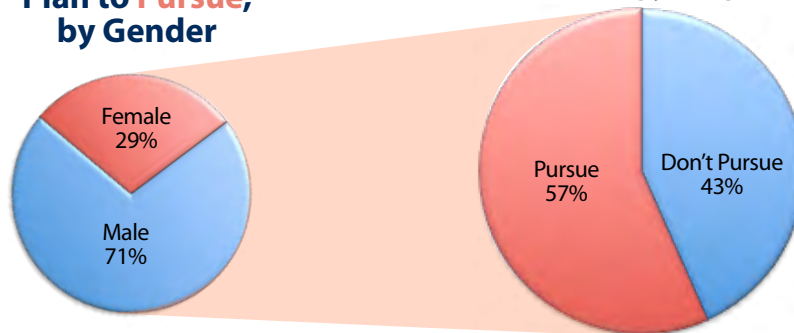


School Classification

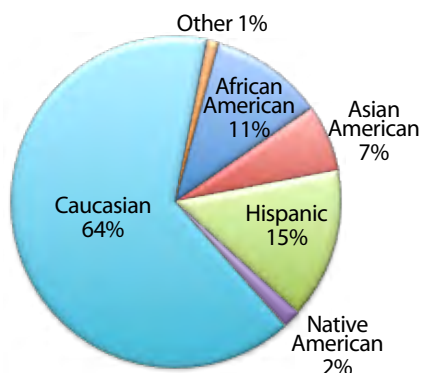


Plan to Pursue Engineering, Science, and Technology Degree

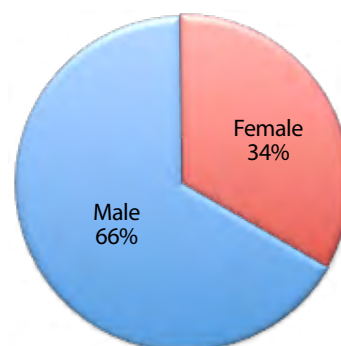
Plan to Pursue, by Gender



Ethnicity



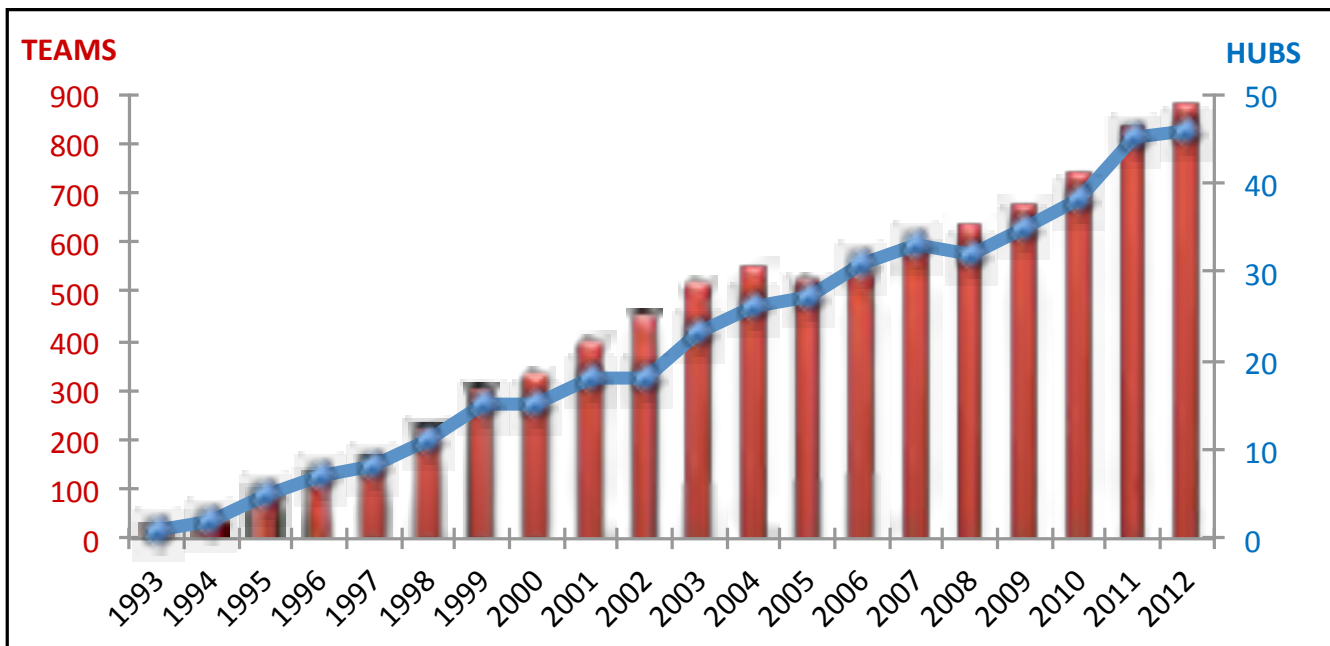
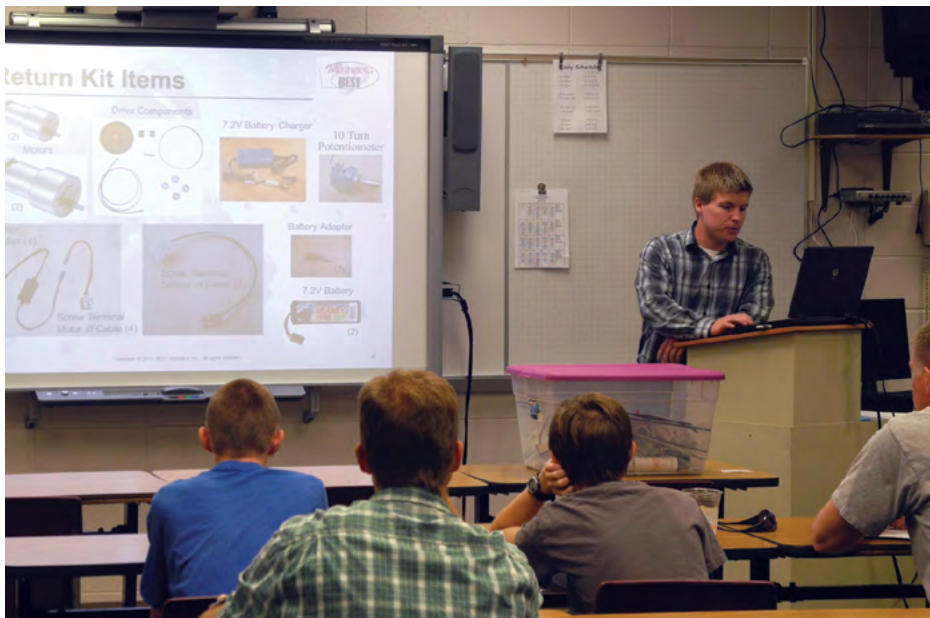
Gender, All Participants



Hub and Team Growth

As a result of participating in BEST, students...

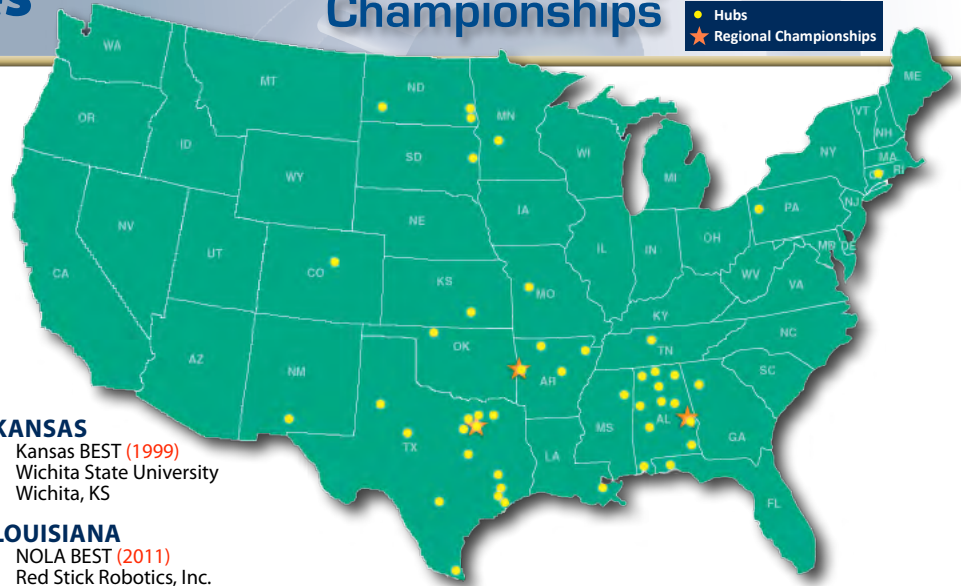
- Understand real-world use of mathematical concepts and applied physics.
- Experience real-world science and engineering challenges, training that is transferable to all academic disciplines and career pursuits.
- Understand what engineers do – engineering is “demystified”.
- Experience “design-to-market” product development – experience that is transferable to all career pursuits.
- Receive recognition and acclaim typically reserved for their peers in sports.



Competition Sites

2012 Hubs and Regional Championships

● Hubs
★ Regional Championships



ALABAMA

Blazer BEST (2008)
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Central Alabama BEST (2011)
Central Alabama Community College
Talladega, AL

Jubilee BEST (2004)
Jubilee BEST Robotics, Inc.
Mobile, AL

North Alabama BEST (2009)
Wallace State Community College
Hanceville, AL

Northeast Alabama BEST (new in 2012)
Northeast Alabama Community College
Rainsville, AL

Northwest Alabama BEST (2011)
Northwest Shoals Community College
Muscle Shoals, AL

Selma BEST (new in 2012)
Wallace Community College
Selma, AL

Shelton State BEST (new in 2012)
Shelton State Community College
Tuscaloosa, AL

Tennessee Valley BEST (2003)
Calhoun Community College
Decatur, AL

War Eagle BEST (2001)
Auburn University
Auburn, AL

Wiregrass BEST (2010)
Wiregrass BEST, Inc.
Dothan, AL

ARKANSAS

Crowley's Ridge BEST (2006)
Arkansas State University
Jonesboro, AR

Little Rock BEST (2009)
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Little Rock, AR

Northark BEST (2006)
North Arkansas College
Harrison, AR

River Valley BEST (2003)
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Fort Smith, AR

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain BEST (2010)
Rocky Mountain BEST, Inc.
Denver, CO

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut BEST (2006)
Central Connecticut State University
New Britain, CT

FLORIDA

Emerald Coast BEST (2007)
University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL

GEORGIA

Georgia BEST (2003)
Southern Polytechnic State University
Marietta, GA

KANSAS

Kansas BEST (1999)
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS

LOUISIANA

NOLA BEST (2011)
Red Stick Robotics, Inc.
New Orleans, LA

MINNESOTA

Minnesota BEST (new in 2012)
New London-Spicer Schools
New London, MN

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi BEST (2005)
Mississippi State University
Starkville, MS

MISSOURI

Show Me BEST (2011)
State Fair Community College
Sedalia, MO

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico BEST (2001)
New Mexico State University at Las Cruces
Las Cruces, NM

NORTH DAKOTA

Bison BEST (2007)
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

Blue Hawk BEST (2011)
Dickinson University
Dickinson, ND

Wildcat BEST (new in 2012)
North Dakota State College of Science
Wahpeton, ND

OKLAHOMA

Heartland BEST (2002)
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Alva, OK

PENNSYLVANIA

Wolverine BEST (2010)
Grove City College
Grove City, PA

SOUTH DAKOTA

Jackrabbit BEST (new in 2012)
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD

TENNESSEE

Music City BEST (2006)
Lipscomb University
Nashville, TN

TEXAS

Big Country BEST (2011)
Texas State Technical College – West Texas
Sweetwater, TX

Capitol BEST (2001)
Capitol BEST, Inc.
Austin, TX

Collin County (CoCo) BEST (1995)
Collin County BEST, Inc.
McKinney, TX

Cowtown BEST (2001)
Lockheed-Martin Aeronautics
Fort Worth, TX

Dallas BEST (1996)
Texas Instruments
Dallas, TX

Denton County (DC) BEST (1997)
University of North Texas
Denton, TX

Galveston BEST (2009)
University of Texas–Medical Branch
Galveston, TX

Heart of Texas BEST (2010)
Texas State Technical College – Waco
Waco, TX

Lion's Pride BEST (2010)
Texas A&M University – Commerce
Commerce, TX

North Houston BEST (1999)
Baker-Hughes, Inc.
The Woodlands, TX

Rio Grande Valley BEST (2011)
Texas State Technical College – Harlingen
Harlingen, TX

San Antonio BEST (1994)
San Antonio BEST, Inc.
San Antonio, TX

Southeast Texas BEST (2011)
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX

West Texas BEST (1995)
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Frontier Trails BEST (2005)
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Fort Smith, AR

Northern Plains BEST (new in 2012)
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

South's BEST (2003)
Auburn University
Auburn, AL

Texas BEST (1994)
University of Texas at Dallas
Dallas, TX

2012 BEST National Partner



In 2011, MathWorks became BEST Robotics' first-and-only National Corporate Partner through its generous funding support for the BEST Robotics organization. The company is the leading developer of mathematical computing software for engineers and scientists in the world. MathWorks equips BEST teams with software, training, and mentoring to tackle the same technical issues as professional engineers. Industry-standard MATLAB® and Simulink® provide a flexible design environment where BEST students can apply classroom theory to solve problems encountered in designing their robots.

2012 BEST National Sponsors



In 2005, igus®, Inc. became BEST's first National Corporate Sponsor by donating its innovative polymer automated machinery parts to every BEST team for use in the design of their robots. The incorporation of these parts revolutionized the robotics competition by enabling students to design more innovative and efficient machines.



Since 2005, SolidWorks® has been providing their CAD Design software free to all BEST students. Their BEST and VEX CAD models, curriculum, tutorials, and design tools have been invaluable in helping students understand the basics of robot design.



Intelitek, developers, producers and suppliers of industrial Blended Learning Technology Training Systems, provides its EasyC programming software for the VEX Cortex microcontroller free to all BEST teams and teachers. Designed with BEST students in mind, easyC's simple to use drag-and-drop programming interface does all of the syntax and spacing, allowing students to focus on program flow and robot design.



The Robotics Academy at Carnegie Mellon University provides its ROBOTC programmable software free to all BEST teams. ROBOTC is the premiere C-based robotics programming language for educational robotics and competitions. It is ideal for those students who want to go beyond simple drag-and-drop programming to writing their own code.



InspirTech provides each BEST team with its Student Edition 2011, a structured SolidWorks training course that guides students through the learning process with a unique and highly effective holistic approach to teaching that inspires confidence rather than confusing and frustrating students.



Now owned by AutoDesk, HSMWorks is the leading Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) software for SolidWorks and AutoCAD. HSMWorks provides seamless integration of 2D and 3D toolpath programming directly into SolidWorks. BEST students can now take their CAD models developed in SolidWorks and within minutes be cutting parts out on their school's router or CNC machine, all from within the SolidWorks environment.



Wolfram Research annually provides BEST students with its renowned computational product, Mathematica. Whether it is research, computations, or technical documentation tasks, Mathematica helps students be their most productive.

2012 Regional Championship Sponsors



Frontier Trails

Baldor Electric Company
Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau
Gerdau
OGE Energy Corp. Foundation, Inc.
Peterson Chemicals, Inc.
United States Air Force
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Weldon, Williams & Lick, Inc.

Platinum Level Sponsors
Gold Level Sponsors



Northern Plains

KL&J
North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education



South's BEST

Auburn University Outreach
Boeing
Brasfield & Gorrie Construction
Briggs & Stratton
Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama
Neptune Technologies Group
Rheem Water Heaters
Southern Company Services
Southern Nuclear
Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc.



Texas BEST

Edward E. Whitacre, Jr. College of Engineering, Texas Tech University
Ericsson
Lockheed Martin
Raytheon
Texas Instruments

2012 Hub Sponsors

Big Country BEST

Ludlum Measurements, Inc

Bison Best

KL&J

North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education

Blazer BEST

Valmont-Newmark

Capitol BEST

Advanced Micro Devices

Technology and Education Executive Council

Central Alabama BEST

Alabama Governor's Office of Workforce Development

Alabama Power Company

Central Alabama Community College

Honda Manufacturing of Alabama

McCartney Construction Company

Talladega Rotary Club

Talladega Superspeedway

International Motorsports Hall of Fame

Representative Steve Hurst

Collin County (CoCo) BEST

Raytheon

Garry and Janne Ackerman

Cowtown BEST

Lockhed Martin

Dallas BEST

Texas Instruments - Analog Engineering Operations

Texas Instruments - DLP Products

Raytheon

Emerald Coast BEST

Gulf Power

Heart of Texas BEST

Texas State Technical College

Community Bank & Trust

First National Bank of Central Texas

Heartland BEST

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Jackrabbit BEST

First Premier Bank

Vision Brookings

Wells Fargo

Avera

Jubilee BEST

J.L. Bedsole Foundation

Faulkner State Community College

ExxonMobil

University of South Alabama - School of Computing

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors

Technip

Ingalls Shipbuilding

Aztec Maritime Services

Evonik

Airbus

BASF

Alabama Power

University of South Alabama - College of Engineering

TSCI

Lowes

Conde Systems

Chevron

Kansas BEST

The Boeing Company

Cessna Aircraft Company

Spirit AeroSystems

Airbus Americas Engineering, Inc.

349th Air Force Recruiting Squadron

Great Plains Ventures, Inc.

Lion's Pride BEST

Harrison Walker & Harper 1887

Region 8 Texas Education Service Center

Minnesota BEST

Kandiyohi Cauty & Willmar Economic

Development Commission

Prinsco

City of Willmar

Jennie-O Turkey Store

 Diamond Level Sponsors

 Platinum Level Sponsors

 Gold Level Sponsors

Hubs that are not listed did not provide any sponsor information

2012 Hub Sponsors (continued)

Lakeland Broadcasting Q102
Willmar Lakes Area CVB

Mississippi BEST

Caterpillar
EpsCor
Milwaukee Tools
Bagley College of Engineering

New Mexico BEST

Calculus
Jacobs Technology
New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
The Boeing Company
TRAX International
El Paso Electric

North Houston BEST

Baker Hughes

Northeast Alabama BEST

Tennessee Valley Authority

River Valley BEST

Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau
OGE Energy Corp. Foundation, Inc.
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Peterson Chemicals, Inc.
United States Air Force
Baldor Electric Company
Weldon, Williams & Lick, Inc.
Gerdau

Rocky Mountain BEST

Club Workshop, LLC
Jeppesen, A Boeing Company
Dick and Judy Tumlinson
Raytheon

San Antonio BEST

Best Buy Children's Foundation
Tesoro Corporation
Cogburn Family Foundation
Cutshall Consulting LLC
Rackspace
Southwest Research Institute

Show Me BEST

Star Line Brass
Ditzfeld Transfer
Kansas City Power & Light
KEIPER Inc.

Southeast Texas BEST

Sam Houston State University
Capsher Technologies
Knowledge Based Systems Inc.
Hydraulic Works, Inc.

Space City BEST

ASME
NASA Johnson Space Center

Tennessee Valley BEST

Toyota

War Eagle BEST

Auburn University Outreach
Boeing
Briggs & Stratton
Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama
Neptune Technologies Group
Southern Company Services
Southern Nuclear
Brasfield & Gorrie Construction
Rheem Water Heaters

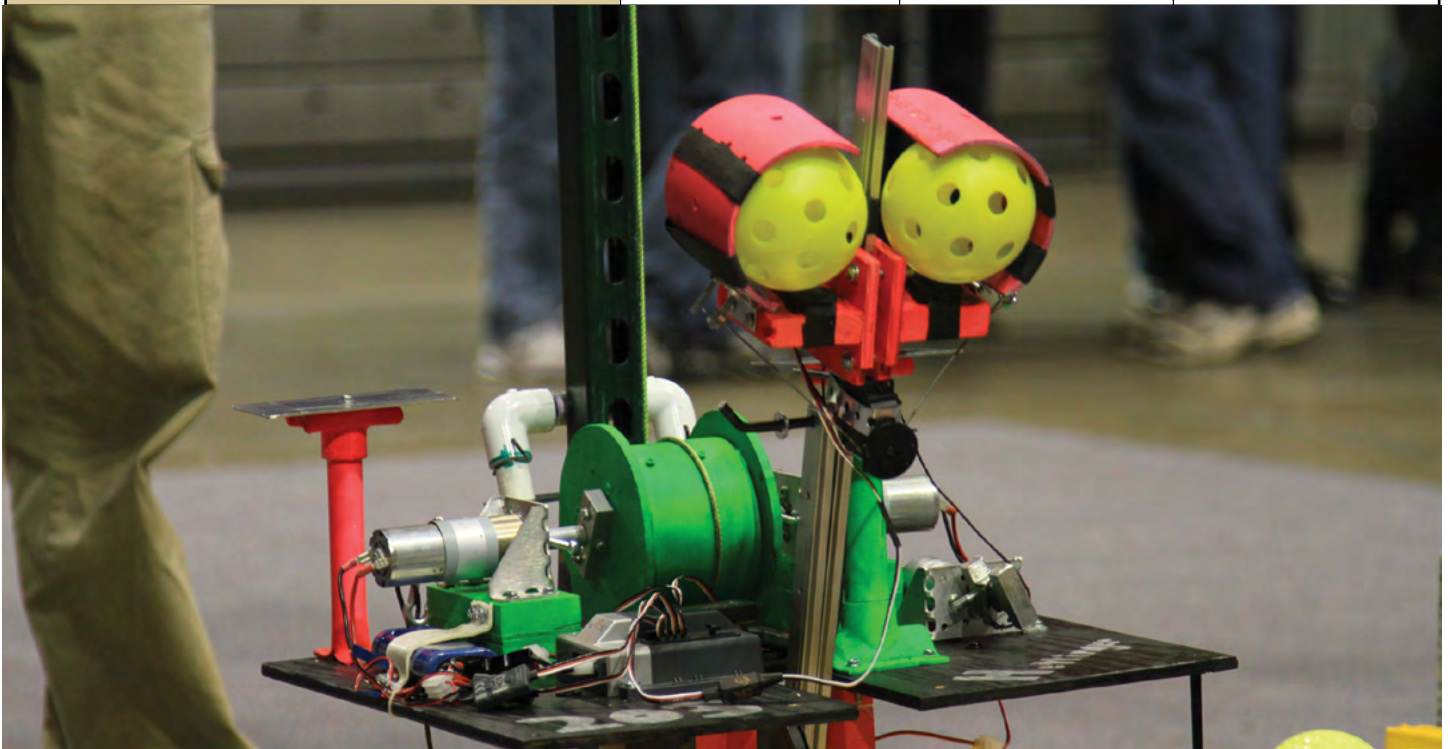
Wolverine BEST

Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc.

Statement of Activities

December 31

	Dec. 31, 2012	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
Assets			
Cash and Equivalent			
Total Checking/Savings	\$272,479.77	\$182,594.47	\$167,590.93
Total Accounts Recievable	-\$81.85	-\$57.69	\$17,416.31
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00	\$10,184.01	\$10,339.83
Cash and Equivalent	\$272,397.92	\$192,720.79	\$195,347.07
Total Assets	\$271,397.92	\$192,720.79	\$195,347.07
Liabilities and Equity			
Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00	-\$7,364.81	-\$6,342.55
Total Liabilities	\$0.00	-\$7,364.81	-\$6,342.55
Total Equity	\$272,397.92	\$200,085.60	\$201,689.62
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$272,397.92	\$192,720.79	\$195,347.07



Officers, Members, and Board Committee Chairs

President
Secretary

Eric Heiselt
Ken Berry

Vice President
Treasurer

Larry Gewax
Kathy Geise

District 1 Representative

Kevin Dinsdale (Hub Director, Show Me)

Crowley's Ridge (Jonesboro, AR); Heartland (Alva, OK); Kansas (Wichita); Little Rock (AR); Northark (Harrison, AR); Oklahoma (Oklahoma City); River Valley (Fort Smith, AR); Show Me (Sedalia, MO)

District 2 Representative

GJ Snyder (Hub Director, North Houston)

Brazos (Bryan/College Station); Coastal Bend (Kingsville); Galveston; North Houston (The Woodlands); Rio Grande Valley (Harlingen); Southeast Texas (Huntsville); Space City (Houston)

District 3 Representative

Becky Musil (Hub Director, Heart of Texas)

Bobcat (San Marcos); Capitol (Austin); Cowtown (Fort Worth); Dallas; Heart of Texas (Waco); San Antonio

District 4 Representative

Terry Blankenship (Hub Director, Big Country)

Big Country (Sweetwater); Collin County (McKinney); Denton County (Denton); Lions Pride (Commerce); New Mexico (Las Cruces); North Texas (Sherman); West Texas (Lubbock)

District 5 Representative

Eric Heiselt (Hub Director, Mississippi)

Blazer (Birmingham, AL); Central Alabama (Talladega); Emerald Coast (Pensacola, FL); Georgia (Marietta); Jubilee (Mobile, AL); Mississippi (Starkville); Music City (Nashville, TN); NOLA (New Orleans, LA); North Alabama (Hanceville); Northwest Alabama (Muscle Shoals); Tennessee Valley (Decatur, AL); War Eagle (Auburn, AL); Wiregrass (Dothan, AL)

District 6 Representative

Kathy Geise (Rocky Mountain)

Bison (Fargo, ND); Blue Hawk (Dickinson, ND); Connecticut (New Britain, CT); Philadelphia (PA); Rocky Mountain (Denver, CO); Wolverine (Grove City, PA)

Regionals Representative

Ken Berry (Co-Director, Texas)

At Large Members

Larry Gewax (Hub Director, Dallas)

Miguel Garcia-Rubio (University of North Texas)

Board Committees and Chairs

Awards & Judging

Board Development

Communications

Game

Hub Development

Kit

National Championship Study

National Conference

Public Awareness

Software

Mary Lou Ewald

Miguel Garcia-Rubio

GJ Snyder

Greg Young

Terry Blankenship

David Kwast

Becky Musil

Eric Heiselt

Kathy Geise

Greg Young



October 25, 2011

Thomas Ereckson Middle School Allen Independent School District

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Robotics Program at Ereckson Middle School

From a principal's perspective, the Robotics program embodies all the quality today, as well as "leaders of tomorrow" to have. The program takes interest in them what it takes to become a true "team." Students work together for a competition that focuses on critical thinking, team planning, cooperation, technology skills, as well as spirit and creativity. Each student's contribution to the team is identified.

The competition is composed of a detailed, written notebook, outline through to build the robot. A verbal presentation of this process. Demonstrations of the robot's ability to achieve the stated goal, as is the "cheer section" we have at each competition, which includes and their families. The creative aspect of the competition comes from the students and staff wear to the event. If students are successful, they proceed to the state level. This is where the competition is held at high schools, and this is where skill is key, and the student's regard to success, but rather the hard work put in by the student. In large part, is the result of the amount of time, dedication, and hard work it does not come easy.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of our kids. The program, Gadd, as well as the skills shared with all students. What this program embodies—love of technology, hard work, and an emphasis on hard work. It is a true winner.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Spain

Phyllis Spain, Principal
Ereckson Middle School

450 Tatum Drive

January 27, 2004

Steve Marum
President, BEST Robotics, Inc.

Mr. President:

As a senior in high school, I had the opportunity to participate in the B.E.S.T. Robotics Competition. Before I began my work on the project, I was just another high school student planning to pursue an ambiguous business degree in college. After the robotics experience—striving with a highly intelligent group of dedicated individuals in a competition endeavor—I knew that only an engineering degree would do for me.

The Physics II AP class at my high school was a melting pot of talent. My peers had diverse ethnic backgrounds that hailed from countries of both the East and the West and hobbies that ranged from astronomy to soccer to chess. Many would not have been friends outside of the classroom—if it were not for the robot project that drew us together. Now, we reunite during our college breaks.

Our teacher made it a point *not* to tell us which of our ideas would work and which were just pie in the sky. He knew we had to do things ourselves to really learn. We ended up building many robots as we felt our way forward.

My friends and I gained significant experience with practical engineering problem solving, but we also added powerful project management tools to our skill sets. We ascertained permanent work sites, scheduled construction times, and coordinated the efforts of all of our team members. As deadlines loomed, team members set aside their differences and buckled down to get jobs done right. Through hard work and cooperation our combined vision became a reality.

Today I study aerospace engineering. Tomorrow I will be showing me the right track. It was the

Sincerely,

Travis

Travis

17 April 2013

Dear Volunteers,
On behalf of Davidson's robotics team, I would like to thank you for all that you do for BEST Robotics. You are the glue to the program and I am so thankful that you would give up your time so that students, such as myself, can have this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,
Kinsey M. Stanley

the limit. Thank you for
d have happened to me.



Hello
I ♥ Robots
What's that? Robots
That's why I'm here!!!
You!!! why we need
my name is Caleb
guess
I'm here!!!
we need

Tom Bear R
Space Elevator



Dear Volunteers,
Thank you very much for volunteering! It is such a hard and tiring job to do especially because it is out of your free time. Instead of doing something of yours, you are serving BEST, thank you very much! BEST is nothing without you!



20th Anniversary



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