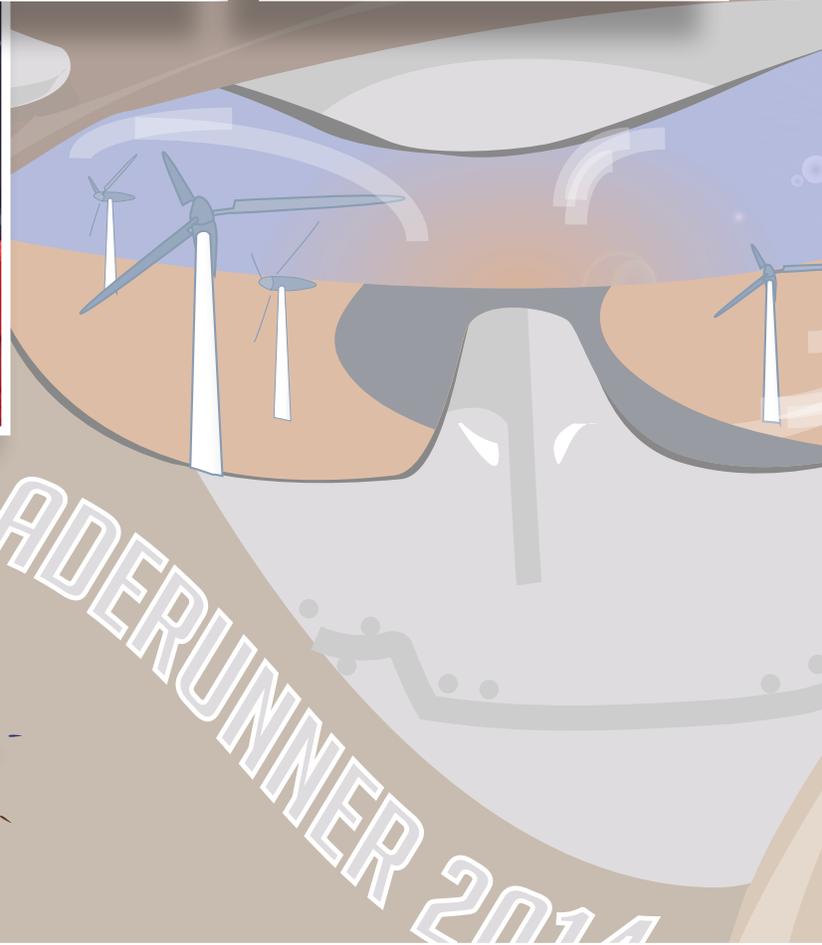
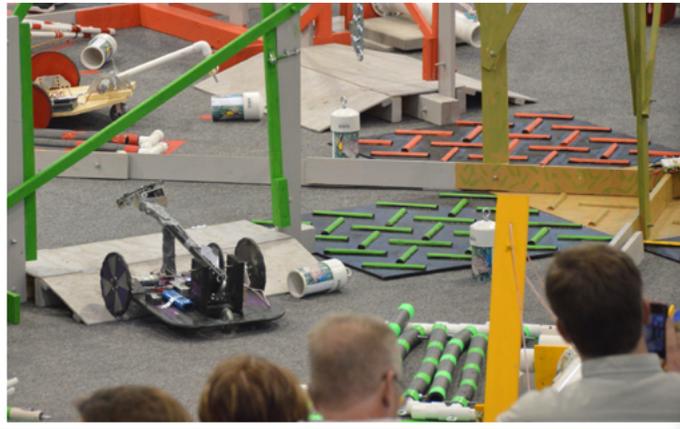




2014 Annual Report

Middle and High School Robotics Program



BLADERUNNER 2014

Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology



Mission Statement

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.

Why we do our 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



President's Letter

BEST is a unique and wonderful organization. It has been an honor to serve as the president of BEST Robotics, Inc. (BRI) during its twenty-second year. In 22 years BEST has grown from a single hub in North Texas to 46 hubs in 19 states. After 22 years we are still relevant and growing.

First and foremost BEST is a robotics competition. Robotics as an activity is still growing rapidly, with more than 300,000 participants around the country every year. Robotics is a Sport of the Mind where kids can have fun stretching their minds. They use their knowledge, imagination and creativity to create something wonderful and new. If this appeals to them, then they all can go pro by making engineering a career. Sports of the Mind are just as important and fun as athletic sports. There is a growing recognition of this, and the idea of Sports of the Mind is spreading. Robotics is now a varsity sport in a number of states including Texas.



Dr. Kenneth Berry
President, BEST Inc.

BEST is a unique robotics competition because we do not have a set robot system. We provide our teams with a random set of parts that they make into a robot. This releases their creativity beyond the boundaries of a kit. Each year I am amazed at what BEST teams can do with what appears to be random pieces of plywood and plastic. BEST teaches kids to be resourceful with what is available, and truly create something that is their own.

But BEST is more than just a robotics competition; it is an education program. BEST supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. STEM education is being promoted all over the country as the key to the future. Without bright young minds that understand the STEM subjects, we lose our competitive economic edge that we have enjoyed since WWII. Without them, current innovation in the marketplace would not be possible. BEST is actively developing these bright young STEM minds. President Obama announced on March 23, 2015 over \$240 million in new STEM commitments at the 2015 White House Science Fair. Friends of BEST in Alabama was there with the Wetumpka High School BEST team representing BRI. States around the country are supporting their own STEM initiatives. We are perfectly situated to take advantage of these initiatives with BESTology, our teacher/coach's training

(continued)

President's Letter (continued)

opportunities, our Twitter feed, blogs, and Facebook.

Furthermore, we are the BEST value in school activities. Although we are moving to a few more professional staff, BEST has been run almost exclusively as a volunteer organization. We serve 20,000 students around the country with an annual budget of about \$100,000. That is a cost of about \$5 per student. In comparison, Boy Scout dues each year exceed \$50 per scout. Fees to play a season of soccer with AYSO exceed \$200 per player in some areas. BEST has thousands of the most dedicated volunteers in the world. I am proud to be numbered among them.

It has been an honor to be the president of such an important and meaningful organization. I look forward to continuing to serve you and it in the future.

BEST Regards,
Dr. Kenneth Berry
President of the BRI Board of Directors

Executive Director Report

2014 was a very interesting and, I think, a very pivotal year for BEST Robotics. Many aspects of the year were "business as usual", however, several important and different actions occurred.



Tom Fitzmaurice
Executive Director, BEST Inc.

The Board of Directors renewed and strengthened their commitment to our hubs and to education. The Board committees were revamped to align with these commitments including the creation of an education committee.

Hubs, and the volunteers that run them, are the backbone of BEST. The Board instituted a mini-grant program for 2014 hoping to give some hubs the financial boost they might need to improve their activities and sustainability. The hubs receiving grants utilized the money across a broad spectrum of projects from the expansion of teams, development of successful workshops, and the creation of promotional videos amongst others. From the comments received from hubs, this seems to have been a very successful endeavor.

The year-end brought to a conclusion my tenure as Executive Director. I want to thank everyone for their support and for giving me the opportunity to serve BEST Robotics. I wish Janne Ackerman every good fortune as she begins her activities as ED and know that she will be a tremendous asset to BEST.

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.



2014 Game Description

The Story Behind the 2014 Game, "Blade Runner"

The Story Line

Educational Theme: Wind Energy and Transportation of Wind Turbine Components



Wind energy is an important topic of the present and the future, providing the world with sustainable clean energy. The enormity of the present day wind turbines continues to grow. These giant turbines pose an interesting engineering challenge – how to transport the components and assemble these massive structures without negatively affecting America's transportation system.

For transport, the weight of the components must be distributed across many axles so that the maximum weight-per-axle limits are not exceeded. This makes the transport vehicles very long and very heavy. Transporting just one turbine requires multiple vehicles. For example, the tower must be shipped in three pieces, with each piece exceeding 50 meters. Each turbine blade is around 45 meters in length and weighs over 40,000 kilograms.

BEST Team Challenge

BEST Robotics is searching for the optimum solution to this engineering challenge. BEST is calling for innovative engineering corporations to develop and build a prototype vehicle to participate in a competition to win a contract with an emerging national wind energy company. The BEST Award will go to the corporation with the total package: transportation and assembly performance (game scoring), innovation and robustness of the vehicle, engineering approach and documentation (notebook), marketing and presentation of the project, environmental stewardship, and spirit and sportsmanship during the competition.

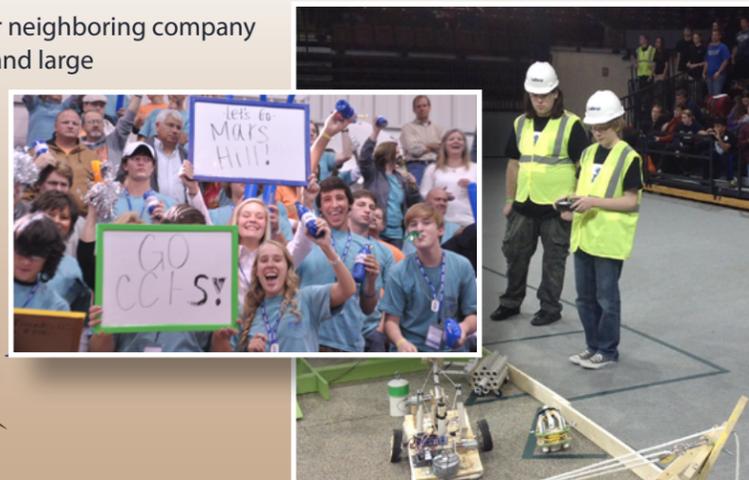
Team Objectives

The 2014 engineering challenge requires your corporation to design a vehicle capable of transporting and maneuvering structures of extreme length and weight to the assembly site without negatively affecting America's transportation system. You must overcome logistic challenges prior to transporting and assembling the wind turbines. Due to potential roadway damage, transportation law requires you to obtain an Over Size Over Weight (OSOW) permit prior to transport. The cost of obtaining the permit contributes to the maintenance of the roadway.

Additionally, some environmentally sensitive areas exist which hamper the development of the infrastructure required to deliver the components to the assembly site. The transportation path travels through the habitat of an endangered species, the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Federal law requires relocation of endangered species to an acceptable alternative habitat.

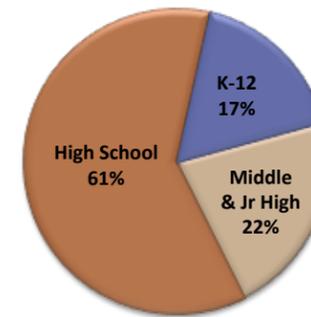
Transport of the components to the assembly site can begin once you resolve the logistic challenges. Once you deliver the components to the assembly site, your vehicle will construct the wind turbines. Cranes on-site will aid in the final upright positioning of your fully completed turbines.

Your corporation may make an agreement with your neighboring company to work together to transport and construct the small and large turbines. Good luck!

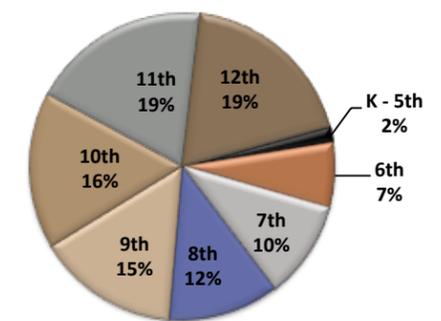


2014 Demographics

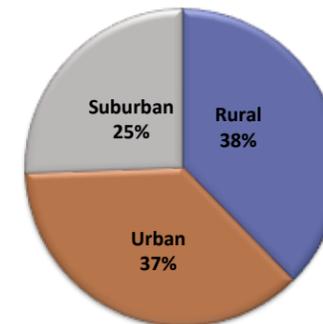
School Type



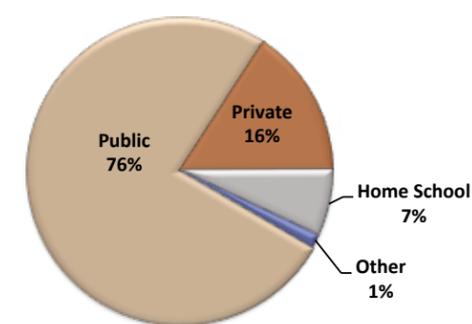
School Grades



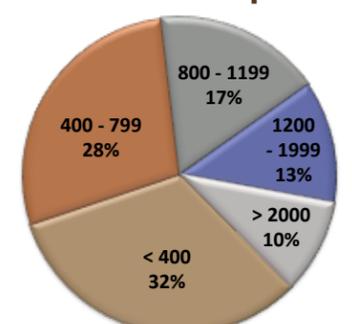
School Location



School Classification

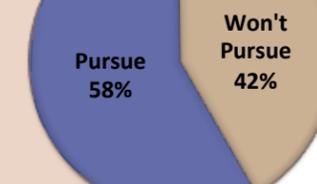
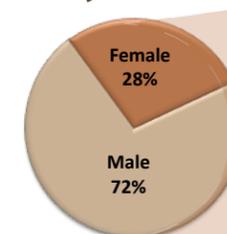


School Student Population

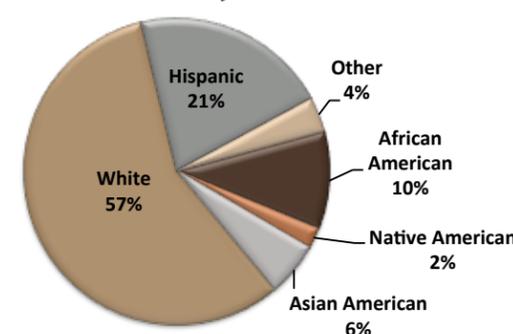


Plan to Pursue Engineering, Science, and Technology Degree

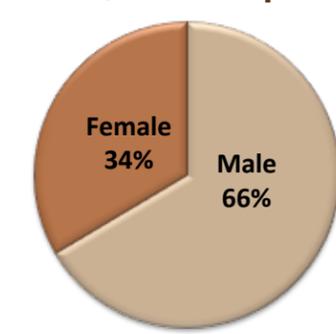
Plan to Pursue, by Gender



Ethnicity



Gender, All Participants



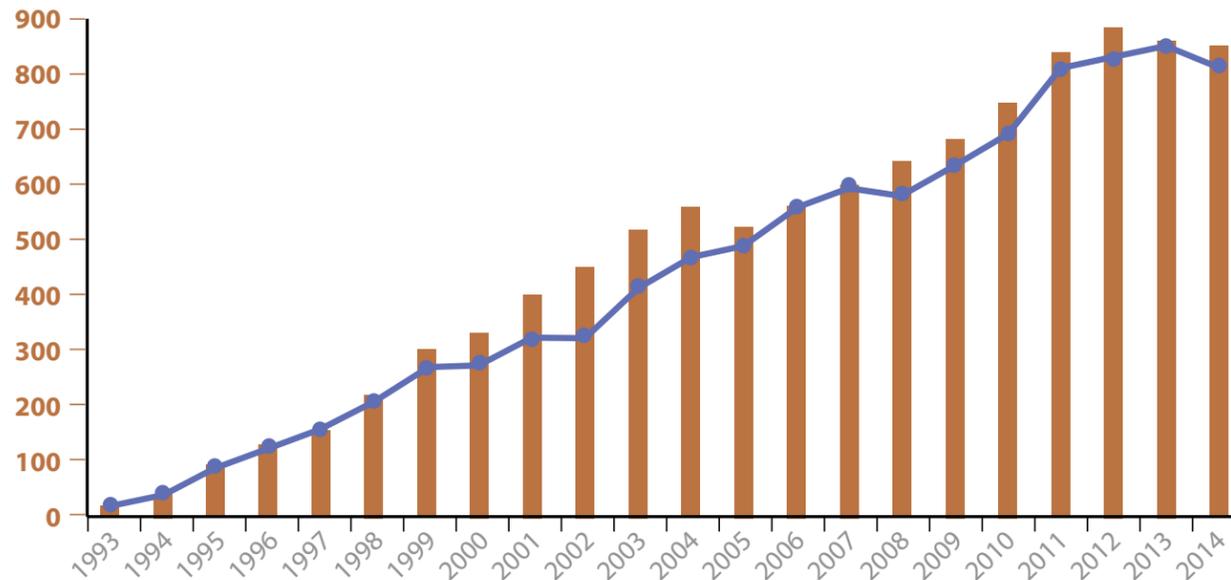
Hub and Team Growth

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.



TEAMS



HUBS

Competition Sites

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 (2012)
Northeast Alabama Community College
Rainsville, AL

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

Selma BEST (2012)
Wallace Community College
Selma, AL

Shelton State BEST (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

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

FLORIDA

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

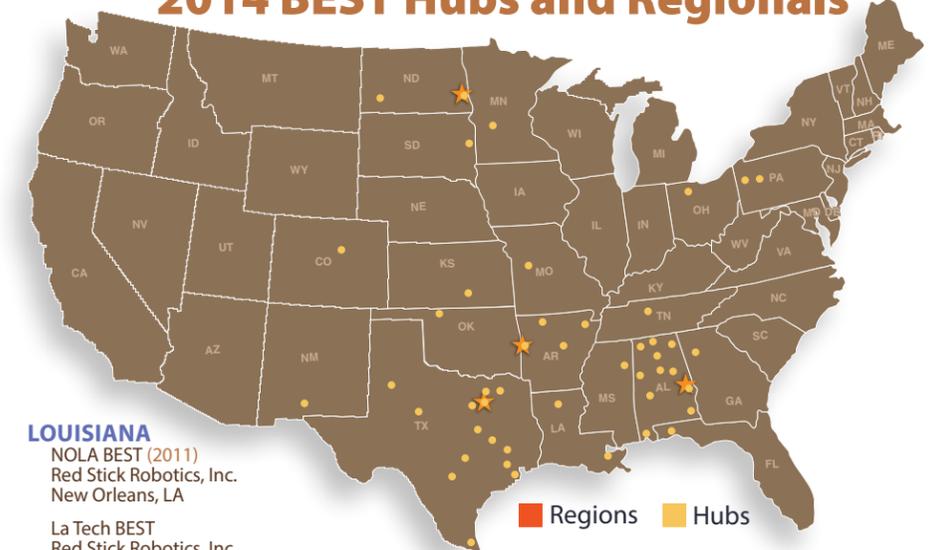
GEORGIA

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

KANSAS

Kansas BEST (1999)
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS

2014 BEST Hubs and Regionals



LOUISIANA

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

La Tech BEST
Red Stick Robotics, Inc.
& Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA

MINNESOTA

Minnesota BEST (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

OHIO

Falcon BEST
Bowling Green University
Bowling Green, OH

OKLAHOMA

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

PENNSYLVANIA

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

DuBois BEST (new in 2014)
Penn State
DuBois, PA

SOUTH DAKOTA

Jackrabbit BEST (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

U-STEM 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 BES (2005)
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Fort Smith, AR

Northern Plains BEST (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

2014 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.

2014 BEST National Sponsors



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.



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.



Robomatter incorporated provides its ROBOTC programming software for VEX Cortex and Robot Virtual Worlds free to all BEST teams during the competition season. ROBOTC is the premier 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.



Solidwize provides each BEST team with free online SolidWorks training courses that guide students through the learning process with a highly effective holistic approach to teaching that inspires confidence rather than confusing and frustrating them. The video-based follow-along step-by-step instruction is available on-line 24/7. Students can gain enough knowledge with this training to receive their SolidWorks certification.



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.



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.



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.

2014 Regional Championship Sponsors

Frontier Trails



Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau
 OGE Energy Corp. Foundation, Inc.
 Peterson Chemicals, Inc.
 Baldor Electric Company
 Weldon, Williams & Lick, Inc.
 Gerdau
 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
 Shamrock Bolt & Screw Company
 J&B Supply Company
 Eureka Pizza
 ABF U-Pack Business Development
 Lumber One
 Lowes of Van Buren
 Custom Awards and Engraving
 Holiday Inn City Center
 Davis Iron and Metal, Inc.
 Williams/Crawford & Associates
 SLW Automotive, Inc.

- Premiere Level Sponsors
- Diamond Level Sponsors
- Platinum Level Sponsors
- Gold Level Sponsors
- Silver Level Sponsors
- BEST Friend Level Sponsors
- Bronze Level Sponsors

Northern Plains



North Dakota State University – College of Engineering
 KL&J
 North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education
 GFMEDC
 Microsoft
 John Deere
 NDSU Development Foundation
 702 Communications
 FM Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Houston Engineering

South's BEST



VisualEdge
 Briggs & Stratton
 VWR Charitable Foundation
 Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau
 Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama
 Donaldson Company
 Neptune Technologies Group
 Wells Fargo
 Brasfield & Gorrie Construction
 Southern Company
 Auburn University Outreach
 Northrop Grumman
 National Guard
 Walmart
 Boeing



Texas BEST

Texas Instruments
 Lockheed Martin
 Rockwell Collins Science and Engineering Education Center
 Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science

2014 Hub Sponsors

Premiere Level
 Diamond Level
 Platinum Level
 Gold Level
 Silver Level

Alabama

Blazer BEST - AL

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Engineering
 Valmont Newmark
 Alabama Governor's Office of Workforce Development
 Engineering Council of Birmingham (ECOB)

Jubilee BEST - AL

Aztec Maritime Services
 J.L. Bedsole Foundation
 Alabama Power
 Faulkner State Community College
 Airbus
 Evonik Corporation
 University of South Alabama
 Ingalls Shipbuilding
 BASF
 Hargrove Engineers + Constructors
 ExxonMobil
 Conde Systems
 Lowe's
 Kimberly-Clark

Northeast Alabama BEST - AL

Governor's Office of Workforce Development
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 DeKalb County Development Commission
 Heil Environmental Solutions Group

Northwest Alabama BEST - AL

Flexco

Selma BEST - AL

Wallace Community College Selma
 Alabama Governor's Office of Workforce Development
 HL-A, Co. Inc
 Alabama Power

Shelton State BEST - AL

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International

Tennessee Valley BEST - AL

Toyota
 TVA
 Decatur Daybreak Rotary

War Eagle BEST - AL

VisualEdge
 Southern Company

Neptune Technology Group
 Auburn University Office of Outreach
 Brasfield & Gorrie
 VWR Charitable Foundation
 Briggs & Stratton
 Alabama National Guard
 Boeing
 Northrop Grumman Corp.
 Donaldson Company
 Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama
 Southern Nuclear
 Walmart Foundation
 Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau
 Donaldson Company Foundation
 VWR Foundation
 Jacobs
 Visual Edge
 Wells Fargo

Arkansas

Little Rock BEST - AR

Caterpillar

Colorado

Rocky Mountain BEST - CO

Jeppesen, A Boeing Company
 BEST Robotics, Inc.
 The Noerr Programs Corporation
 Club Workshop, LLC
 Metropolitan State University of Denver
 Scitor Corporation
 Raytheon Company

Florida

Emerald Coast BEST - FL

AT&T
 ASHRAE
 IP Foundation
 IEEE

Georgia

Georgia BEST - GA

Southern Polytechnic State University
 Marietta NDT
 Lockheed
 Georgia Power
 Cobb EMC

Kansas

Kansas BEST - KS

Textron Aviation
 Spirit AeroSystems

Siemens
 Great Plains Ventures
 Airbus Americas Engineering, Inc.
 Randal & Elizabeth Atkeisson
 SPEEA

Minnesota

Minnesota BEST - MN

Willmar Area Community Foundation
 ENGraphpted
 Jennie-O Turkey Store
 Cultura Technologies LLC

Mississippi

Mississippi BEST - MS

Bagley College of Engineering, Mississippi State University
 Caterpillar Reman
 Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Mississippi
 Missile Defense Agency- STEM Outreach
 Kimberly Clark
 Nissan of North America
 MTD Products

North Dakota

Bison BEST - ND

NDSU College of Engineering
 KLJ
 ND Career and Tech
 GFMEDC
 Microsoft
 John Deere
 NDSU Development Foundation
 702 Communications
 FM Visitors Center
 Houston Engineering

Blue Hawk BEST - ND

Dickinson State University
 Hafele Construction
 MDU
 ProBuild



New Mexico

New Mexico BEST - NM

Air Force Research Lab
 Calculex, Inc.
 Sandia National Laboratories
 /Lockheed Martin
 TRAX International
 New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
 The Boeing Company
 El Paso Electric
 Jacobs Technology

Ohio

Falcon BEST - OH

Honda North America
 Turner Lathrop

Heartland BEST - OK

Charles Morton Share Trust Foundation
 Cargill Salt
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University
 Alva Tourism and Development
 Innovation First International
 SolidWorks
 MathWorks
 Pettit's House of Carpet
 Igus, Inc.

Pennsylvania

Penn State DuBois BEST - PA

Fairman Family Foundation
 Missile Defense Agency
 Atlas Pressed Metals

Wolverine BEST - PA

Integrated Industrial Technologies, Inc.
 Armstrong

South Dakota

Jackrabbit BEST - SD

SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering
 Daktronics
 Brookings Vision II
 First Premier Bank
 First Bank & Trust
 NorthWestern Energy
 Avera
 Xcel Energy
 SAIC
 IBM
 East River Electric
 Lowes
 Bartlett & West
 3M

TSP, Inc.
 TV Productions
 Sideline Productions
 Premier Source

Tennessee

Music City BEST - TN

Nissan North America

Texas

Brazos BEST - TX

Capsher Technologies Inc.
 Knowledge Based Systems Inc.
 Brazos Valley Image
 Hydraulic Works Inc.

Capitol BEST - TX

Freescale Semiconductor, Inc
 Texas State University
 Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt Publishers
 STEM Council at Skillpoint Alliance

Collin County (CoCo) BEST - TX

Janne and Garry Ackerman
 Raytheon Company
 Allen ISD
 Plano Market Square Mall
 Princeton ISD
 Otis Gorley

Cowtown BEST - TX

Lockheed Martin

Dallas BEST - TX

Raytheon
 TI DLP Products
 TI Analog Engineering Operations

Heart of Texas BEST - TX

Texas State Technical College Waco
 Wilsonart

Lions Pride BEST - TX

Farmers Electric Cooperative
 Flowserve
 Harrison, Walker & Harper 1887
 TAMU-College of Science, Engineering & Agriculture
 Texas BEST Mini-grant

North Houston BEST - TX

Baker Hughes
 American Society of Mechanical Engineers
 GJ Snyder III



San Antonio BEST - TX

Tesoro Corporation
 Southwest Research Institute
 Cutshall Consulting, LLC
 Valero Energy Foundation
 Society of American Military Engineers, San Antonio Branch
 Security Service Federal Credit Union
 Frost Bank
 Zachry Corporation

Southeast Texas BEST - TX

Sam Houston State University
 HW Hydraulic Works
 Knowledge Based System Inc
 Capsher Technology

U-STEM BEST - TX

Texas Workforce Commission
 Pedagogy and Content Coaching

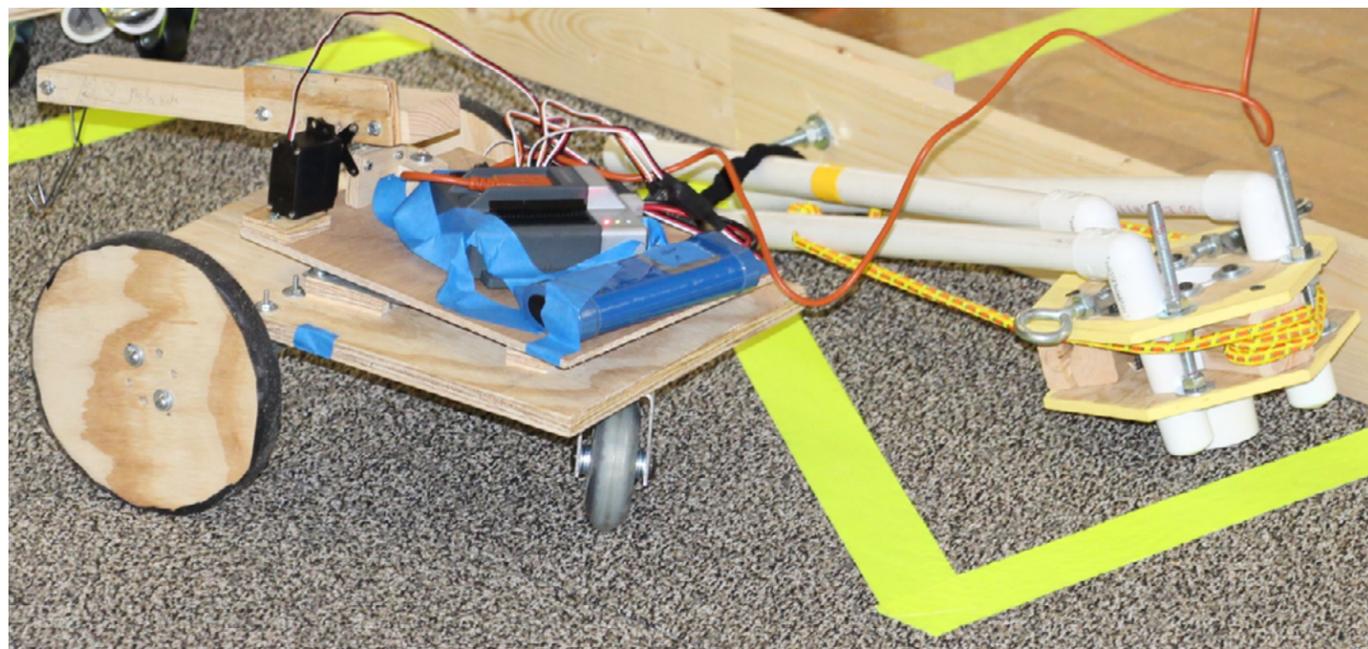
West Texas BEST - TX

Texas Tech Office of Institutional Diversityk Equity, and C
 Texas Tech Whitacre College of Engineering
 X-Fab of Texas
 Terry and Linda Fuller
 Brandon and Clark
 TTU Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering IAB
 IEEE
 Chris David
 Drs. Rebecca and Richard Gale
 ANSYS Inc

Hubs that are not listed did not provide any sponsor information

2014 Financials

Statement of Activities			
December 31			
	Dec. 31, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013	Dec. 31, 2012
Assets			
Cash and Equivalent			
Total Checking/Savings	\$331,664.56	\$345,359.41	\$277,479.77
Total Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	-\$81.85	-\$81.85
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash and Equivalent	\$331,661.56	\$345,277.56	\$272,397.92
Total Assets	\$345,277.56	\$345,277.56	\$272,397.92
Liabilities and Equity			
Total Current Liabilities	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Equity	\$331,261.56	\$345,277.56	\$272,397.92
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$331,261.56	\$345,277.56	\$272,397.92



2014 BEST Robotics Inc. Leadership

Executive Director

Tom Fitzmaurice

Director of Operations

Greg Young

Assistant to the Board

Rhonda Sherrell

Board of Directors

President

Ken Berry

Vice President

Todd Atkins

Secretary

Daniel Curtis

Treasurer

Patricia Sullivan

Hub District Representatives

District 1 Representative

Gail Fulenwider (River Valley)

Heartland (Alva, OK); Kansas (Wichita); Little Rock (AR); Northark (Harrison, AR); River Valley (Fort Smith, AR); Rocky Mountain (Denver CO), Show Me (Sedalia, MO)

District 2 Representative

GJ Snyder (Hub Director, North Houston)

Brazos (Bryan/College Station); Capitol (Austin, TX); Heart of Texas (Waco, TX); North Houston (The Woodlands, TX); Rio Grande Valley (Harlingen, TX); San Antonio (San Antonio, TX); Southeast Texas (Huntsville, TX); U-STEM (Galveston, TX)

District 3 Representative

Mike Kennamer (Hub Director, Northeast Alabama)

Blazer (Birmingham, AL); Central Alabama (Talladega AL); Georgia (Marietta); Music City (Nashville, TN); North Alabama (Hanceville); Northeast Alabama (Rainsville, AL); Northwest Alabama (Muscle Shoals); Tennessee Valley (Decatur, AL); War Eagle (Auburn, AL)

District 4 Representative

Patricia Sullivan (Hub Director, New Mexico)

Big Country (Sweetwater); Collin County (McKinney); Cowtown (Fort Worth, TX); Dallas (Dallas, TX); Lions Pride (Commerce); New Mexico (Las Cruces); West Texas (Lubbock)

District 5 Representative

Lydia Allison (Hub Director, Mississippi)
Emerald Coast (Pensacola, FL); Jubilee (Mobile, AL); La Tech (Ruston, LA); Mississippi (Starkville, MS); NOLA (New Orleans, LA); Selma (Selma, AL); Shelton (Tuscaloosa, AL); Wiregrass (Dothan, AL)

District 6 Representative

Alan Kallmeyer (Hub Director, Bison)

Bison (Fargo, ND); Blue Hawk (Dickinson, ND); Connecticut (New Britain, CT); Falcon (Bowling Green, OH); Jackrabbit (Brookings, SD); Minnesota (New London, MN); Penn State DuBois (DuBois, PA); Wildcat (Wahpeton, ND); Wolverine (Grove City, PA)

Regionals Representative

Ken Berry (Co-Director, Texas)

At Large Members

Miguel Garcia-Rubio (Mercyhurst University)

Daniel Curtis (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Todd Atkins (Mathworks Inc.)

Suzanne Johnson

Board Committees and Chairs

Awards & Judging

Jason Devillier

Game

Greg Young

Kit

David Kwast

Software

Greg Young

Board Development

Miguel Garcia-Rubio

Education

Robin Fenton

Hub Development

Open

Marketing & Public Relations

Lydia Allison

Policies and Procedures

Daniel Curtis

Strategic Planning

Todd Atkins

Testimonials

BEST Robotics was a great opportunity not only for my high school, but for me as an individual. The competition taught me skills such as communication, leadership, and the ability to adapt to different atmospheres. BEST gave me, along with my peers, the opportunity to work on our networking, marketing, and engineering skills. This is something I know not only Sylacauga High School benefited from, but the Sylacauga community as well. This was an experience I will forever remember my senior year by. I am grateful to have been able to be a part of the 2014 BEST robotics competition and it is not something I will forget.

Caleb Morgan, CEO, SABER Inc.
Sylacauga High School senior

Dear BEST Robotics,

My name is Makenzie Gruenig, and I can promise you that I am one of the most passionate students about BEST that there ever has been, or ever will be. I have been doing this competition for nine years, starting when I was simply eight years old. I would like to start by thanking you all. My robotics team has been the highlight of my life, my fellow students have become my best friends, and my knowledge has grown leaps and bounds- but maybe not how you would expect. Yes, I love the robot aspect of the competition, but my heart is in project management. I have been the president of business on our team for the past three years and have loved every second of it. During season, I live, breath, and eat robotics. Off season? I live, breath, and eat robotics. My team works year round to prepare for those precious six weeks. The point is- thank you for offering different parts to this competition, the fact that although I am not the strongest robot builder, I can help my team be successful through the other aspects, really has helped me find my place in the world. This brings me to my true point. I have poured myself into robotics, volunteering at multiple competitions including BEST nationals in the 2011 competition year. I also have plans to work with my local hub to make BEST even bigger and better as I proceed to college. It has helped me realize my love and passion for marketing, through media, such as videography.

This year was my Senior year. My last year to ever do BEST as a student. My team- for the first time ever- won first place at UTD BEST. My dream has come true!!! But there has always been a bigger dream for me- nationals. Now I know you don't do it due to costs and time availability, but if you did... It would stick with me for the rest of my life. This is my very last chance to fulfill something I have been dying to do for nine years, and I hope you might consider... My fellow students and I don't care if it's a big event. We don't care if there is a party, if it is held in an old school gym, outside, or if we receive free food, even T-shirts. We don't care if teams have to pay an entrance fee, we don't care if we have to stay in cardboard boxes instead of hotels!! We do this for the love of robotics, the love of advancing our community and world! Nothing else matters... We don't need lavish treatment, or for it to be held at some huge convention center, or Disney world, or whatever extra cogent place you think we need to be happy. But BEST Nationals is what we are dying to do. And I hope that maybe you might consider fulfilling 6 seniors dream this year... We would help in any way possible. But even if not, thank you for the memories BEST. I will never love ANYTHING more then I did, you. It's been a great nine years.

Makenzie Gruenig
Senior student



The excitement of a **basketball game!**
The challenge of a **science fair!**
The strategy of a **chess match!**
The pressure of a **sporting event!**



Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology

<http://www.bestinc.org>