

## President's Summary

The FIRST Competition has proven its worth as an opportunity for youth to gain or increase their appreciation and interest in Science and Technology. We have been growing rapidly and will continue to do so. We are becoming nationally recognized as an effective organization with immense potential. As we grow, we are going to be faced with new challenges. Some challenges will require change to our organization, others may require minor changes in the Competition. We also plan to implement new programs in 1998 which will be geared to younger students and schools themselves. We will update our web page as changes occur, especially with changes which affect our teams.

As we progress, we need to maintain the purpose of our existence, and not lose sight of our vision which is:

**At FIRST, we see a world where science and technology are celebrated, where kids think science is cool and dream of becoming science and technology heroes.**

Over the course of 3 weekends in 1998, 5 Regional Competitions are scheduled. In 1998, everyone will have the opportunity to go to the National Championship at Disney's Epcot. As we look forward to 1999 we could have 1,000 teams participating, with Regional Competitions throughout the country, and as many teams as possible at the National. 1999 will present an exhilarating challenge in how we accomplish this feat, but it will lead the way to more and more youth participating in the excitement of FIRST.

We need your feedback to accomplish our goals. In return, we promise to provide you with our feedback. We will strive to reduce team costs. We will endeavor to increase scholarship opportunities and assist teams in their ability to be competitive regardless of their size or financial support. We will continue to insist that even though this is a competition, the priority is a learning experience for the youth. A poorly performing robot done by students is a better robot than a super robot where the students did not participate or learn. The same concept applies to the Chairman's, Founder's, Animation and other special awards.

Lastly, remember that participation is an experience in life. Teamwork, Inspiration, Dedication, Respect, Assertiveness, Social Grace, Ethics, Community, Self-Appreciation, and Fulfillment, are all part of the tools required for a successful and rewarding career. Feel free to call or write us to share your opinions.

Good luck.



Andrew Allen

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