

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Local High Schools Receive More Than \$70,000 in Grants
from New York Tech Valley FIRST Sponsors
for Expanding FIRST Robotics Programs***

MALTA, NY – More than 200 students representing communities from 19 counties in New York Tech Valley along with teachers, industry and college mentors, and parents were presented \$70,000 in grants. These grants are the outcome of combined sponsors' contributions that will enable increasing numbers of schools and youth groups in Tech Valley to engage in FIRST Programs.

New York Tech Valley FIRST Sponsors combined their efforts to make these grants possible. Sponsors include GLOBALFOUNDRIES, GE, ASML, M+W Group, KLA-Tencor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Time Warner, National Grid, Mattson Technology, Lam Research, Applied Materials, Turner Construction, SCREEN USA, Wonik IPS and PDF Solutions. These companies share the need to address the challenge of forging the skilled workforce needed to succeed in the global economy.

FIRST[™] Programs offer students the opportunity to build robots alongside mentors from their communities and compete at local and national tournaments where teams receive recognition for design excellence, sportsmanship, teamwork, and where their creativity in Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills are celebrated. FIRST K-12 Robotics programs reach more than 400,000 students in the US and the world and are gaining great traction in New York Tech Valley as the business community recognizes their potential as vehicles to help young people develop STEM skills.

The New York Tech Valley FIRST Sponsors' grant awards were presented to local teams following the GLOBALFOUNDRIES Open House by Ana Martinez, FIRST Regional Director, along with members of the New York Tech Valley FIRST Planning Committee. "The growing support for FIRST programs coming from the education and business community in New York Tech Valley is overwhelming, and speaks to the amazing vision of the region's leaders and their

active engagement in driving workforce development in our state, " she said as awards were presented.

For more information on New York Tech Valley FIRST Sponsors Grants please visit www.techvalleyfirst.org.

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About FIRST

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded [FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$19 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the [FIRST Robotics Competition](#) (FRC) for students in Grades 9-12; [FIRST Tech Challenge](#) (FTC) for Grades 7-12; [FIRST LEGO League](#) (FLL) for Grades 4-8; and [Junior FIRST LEGO League](#) (Jr.FLL) for Grades K-3. [Gracious Professionalism](#) is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about FIRST, go to www.usfirst.org.