



Annual Report 2022-23
REC Foundation
www.recf.org

2022 | ANNUAL 2023 | REPORT

Robotics Education & Competition Foundation

1519 Interstate 30-West
Greenville, TX 75402 USA

recf.org
robotevents.com

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation's global mission is to provide every educator with competition, education, and workforce readiness programs to increase student engagement in science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science.

We see a future where every student designs and innovates as part of a team, overcomes failure, perseveres, and emerges confident in their ability to meet global challenges.





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REC Foundation

1519 Interstate 30 West
Greenville, Texas 75402
United States

CEO Statement

As I reflect on the 2022-2023 Robotics Education and Competition Foundation season, I am inspired by the support shown by our robotics community.



Dan Mantz
CEO

This year, we have reached an organizational landmark with double the number of robotics teams engaged in REC Foundation programming compared to 2018-2019.

That's just five years, and we wouldn't have seen such exponential growth without the help of thousands of passionate volunteers, staff, coaches, and students. I'd also like to give a special thank you to our generous sponsors, all of whom understand our vision and realize the need for STEM and workforce development programs like the ones we provide. We could not do it without you. It was remarkable to see a record number of participants across all of our programs this year.

The Aerial Drone Competition continues to thrive as a valuable entry point into tomorrow's STEM careers. With over 950 teams in 41 states across the U.S., this season's registration numbers saw 150% growth in student pilots.

Our efforts to expand access to robotics and STEM for underserved populations have never been stronger. Native American teams convened at the 3rd Annual Southwestern Native American Showcase in November.

Thousands of girls attended over 100 Girl Powered workshops throughout the year. Additionally, through a partnership with the Alabama Institute of the Blind, we provided ASL interpreters for all applicable events throughout the season, including the VEX Robotics World Championship.

Speaking of the VEX Robotics Worlds Championship, congratulations to the 2022-2023 World Champions and Inspiration All-Stars. These individuals personify teamwork, collaboration, innovation, and unwavering persistence - values that are at the core of the REC Foundation's programs.

Again, thank you for all that you do for the REC Foundation. I am certain that the 2023-24 season will provide a host of new opportunities and challenges, and I look forward to meeting them alongside you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Mantz' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Mantz
CEO, REC Foundation



Program Highlights

01.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

The REC Foundation offers Industry Certifications in Robotics and Pre-Engineering. These certifications were designed by a team of engineers, college professors, and high school teachers, and serves as a response to a global need for more STEM professionals. This season, a record 14,700 industry certifications were awarded to students in 14 states.

02.

NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH

70 teams composed of indigenous robotics students traveled to the White Mountain Apache Reservation to compete in the 3rd Annual Southwest Native American Showcase, sponsored by Amazon. The Showcase, which welcomed students from Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, aimed to provide additional support to native peoples who do not have access to STEM education. Over the next year, plans are in place to offer a similar Showcase experience to indigenous individuals on the East Coast and in U.S. territories in the Pacific.

03.

BELL AVR

The REC Foundation once again partnered with Bell Flight for the Bell Advanced Vertical Robotics Competition. This season, high school students were tasked with building a drone and piloting multiple vehicles in order to respond to a simulated emergency. With tiered objectives, laser optics, and miles of wire beneath the playfield, the Bell AVR Competition is one of the most advanced robotics competitions in the world.

Meet the Board



Dan Mantz
CEO
REC Foundation



Dr. Cori Lathan, Ph.D
CEO
De Oro Devices



Mary Lou Ewald
Director
Southern Center of Robotics
Education (SCORE);
Director of Science & Math
Outreach, Auburn University



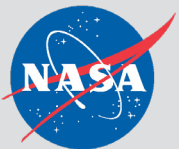
Shelly Gruenig
Founder & CEO
Be Greater Than Average

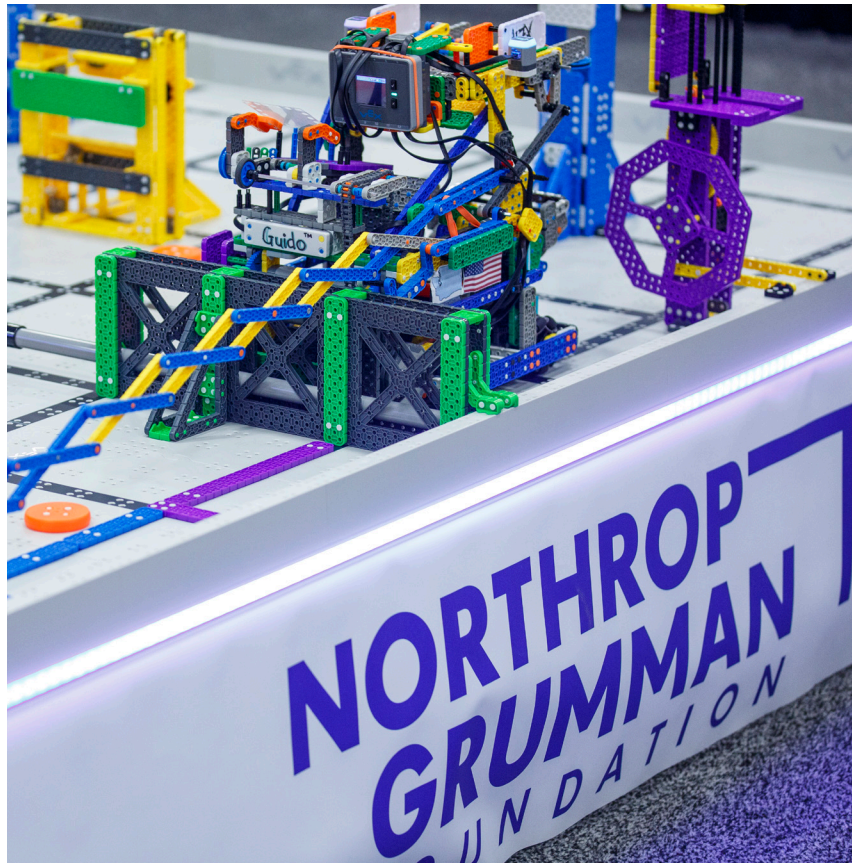


Mike Harris
Chief Operating Officer,
Ring/Blink (Amazon)

Our Sponsors

The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation is grateful for the generous support of our sponsors who partner year-round to provide team grants and support local tournaments, state championships, and the VEX Robotics World Championship. We value their commitment to advancing student interest and engagement in STEM.





Donor Spotlight

The success of the 2022-2023 season is due to the generosity of our sponsors. The VEX Robotics World Championship, with the Northrop Grumman Foundation as its global presenting sponsor, brought over 30,000 students from around the world to Dallas, TX, for nearly two weeks of fierce competition. Thank you to every sponsor for their invaluable contribution to this transformative event.

While primarily known for their iconic automobiles, Tesla also invests heavily in STEM programming. Last year, Tesla made contributions to numerous REC Foundation initiatives, including allocating grants to start new VRC and VIQRC teams across the state of Nevada, hands-on robotics student and teacher training with Tesla Robotics Labs, and the elevation of Career Technology Education through the establishment of smaller robotics labs in Nevada schools.

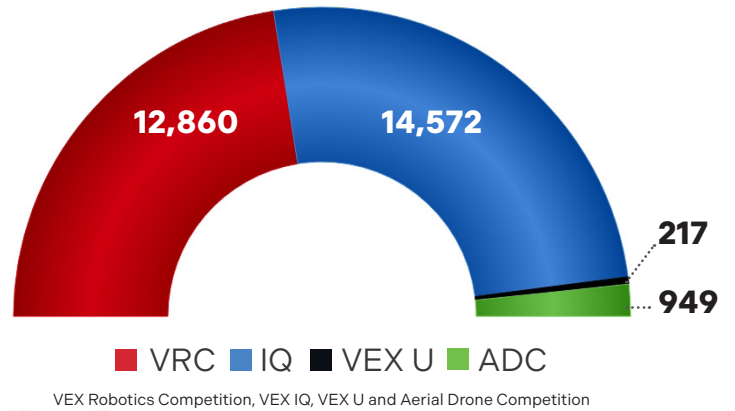
The Mazda Foundation, with their own emphasis on STEM workforce development, provided support for the Factory Automation Competition (FAC) program to encourage interest in manufacturing careers. The FAC program, including V5 Workcells kits, were strategically placed in underserved schools in rural Alabama. The REC Foundation staff provided training to educators who will use the Workcells in their classrooms.

NASA provided welcome kits to all High School teams, and in an additional show of support, NASA also allocated resources for 500 grants, 250 for new teams and 250 for returning teams, to cover the cost of registration for the 2022-2023 season.

Annual Numbers



Teams by Program



OVER THE PAST YEAR,

2,993

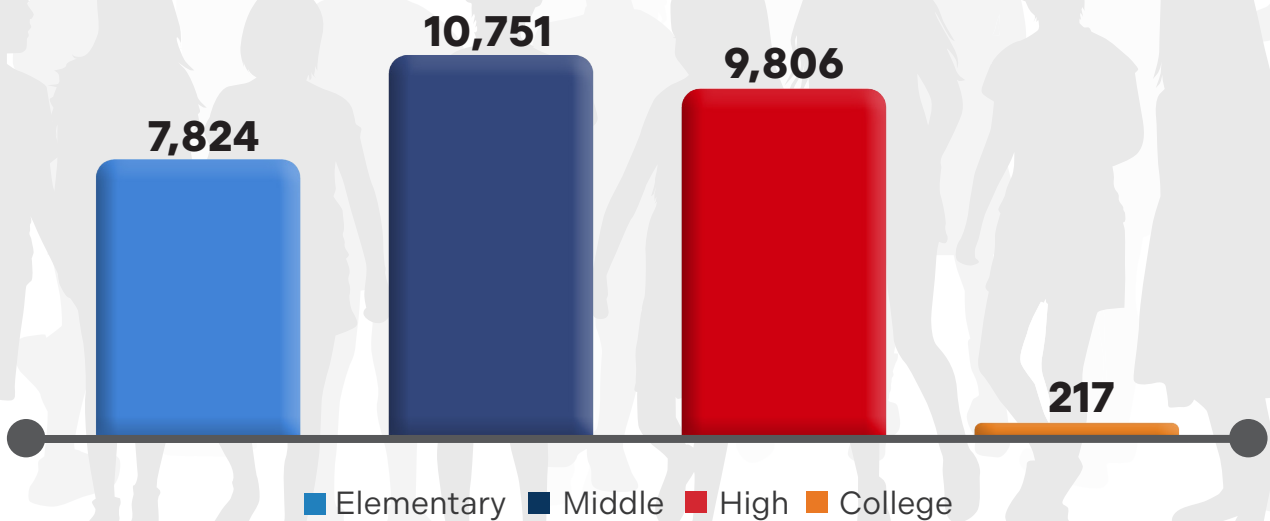
EVENTS HELD

TOTAL TEAMS*

28,598

*US AND NON-US

Teams by Grade Level



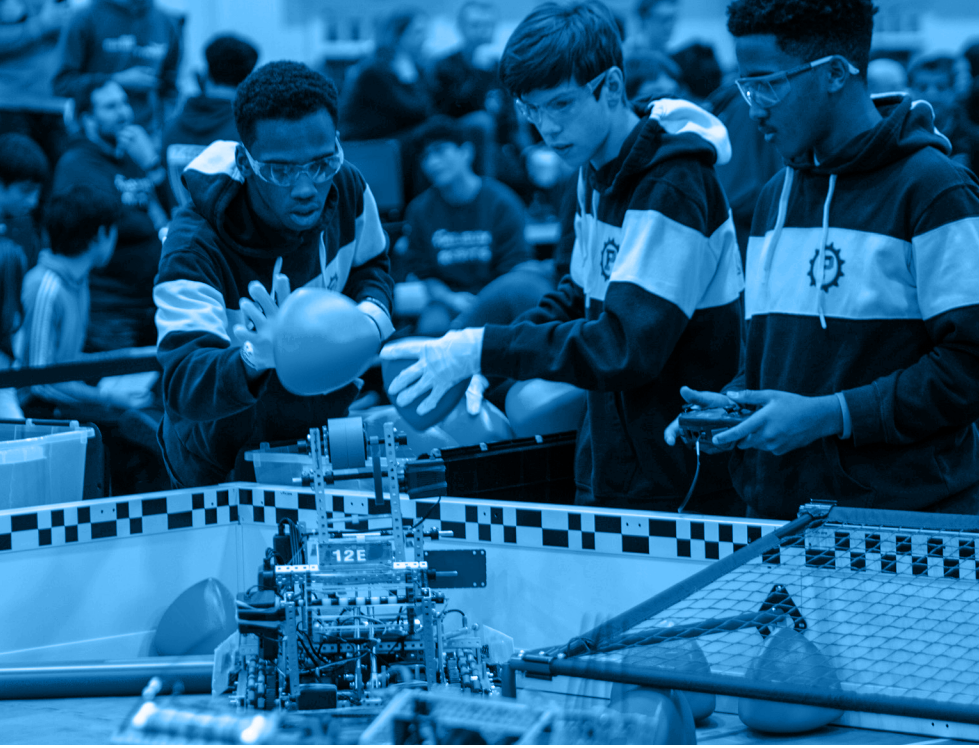
Financial Highlights

Revenue and Support	Total
Contribution and grants	\$8,878,477
Event income	\$14,426,557
Total revenue and support	\$23,305,034

Expenses	Total
Salaries	\$4,901,999
Advertising	\$391,930
Travel	\$1,839,225
Insurance	\$314,474
Facility	\$57,149
Event Support	\$13,949,765
Office Expenses	\$434,656
Total expenses	\$21,889,199
Net Income	\$1,415,835

**Unaudited financial statement*

**Fiscal year is September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023*



When these students go to a tournament, they automatically ask ‘what can I do to help?’ It’s that type of contribution, knowing that we are helping instill these kinds of values in these students, that makes REC Foundation programs great.”

- Laurie Ross
Lost River Robotics Coach



It's not so much about the awards won by her team, but the valuable interpersonal skills and new experiences that the students are exposed to while participating in robotics.

When students from Lost River High School in the small town of Merrill, Oregon arrive for class in the morning, the first thing they see is a vast potato field. The school itself is situated among farmland where many of these students' families have come to work for decades. To say that Merrill is a rural community is an understatement, and with 90% of the population below the poverty line, it may come as a surprise that educational robotics programs are available and embraced here.

"Parents are very supportive" says Laurie Ross, who teaches English at the school while serving as the Lost River robotics coach. "Whenever I need something, they try hard to get it for me."

This sense of community is integral to the success of Lost River Robotics students, who secured a spot at the VEX Robotics World Championship after placing first in the Oregon State Championships. For Laurie, however, it's not so much about the awards won by her team, but the valuable interpersonal skills and new experiences that the students are exposed to while participating in robotics.

"Some students have never flown or gone to restaurants. Those may seem like small things but they're important to the kids." she said. "We've also qualified for events, and won Sportsmanship and Judges awards. When these students go to a tournament, they automatically ask 'what can I do to help?' It's that type of contribution, knowing that we are helping instill these kinds of values in these students, that makes REC Foundation programs great."



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