**2012 AdamBots Chairman’s**

Can you think of a person, event or organization that has significantly impacted you? As a year-round team with strong partnership, the AdamBots, *FRC* Team 245 strives to be an impactful organization, not just for our own team members, but also for our school, community, sponsors, and others teams. In fact, throughout the past 3 years team membership and success are not the only areas of growth for our team—our team’s local, national, and international impact has also grown significantly.

**Impact Within Our Team**

The AdamBots have a substantial impact on team members, including students, mentors, and alumni. Students are inspired to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. From 2009 to 2011, 90% of alumni pursued STEM majors in college, and many work in STEM jobs. We are also a well-rounded team, as demonstrated by the success of our non-engineering sub-teams, and also inspire students to consider non-STEM majors or careers. In recent years, our non-engineering teams have helped the team win seven Best Website Awards, two Imagery awards and an Entrepreneurship award.

The AdamBots enable student to gain important life skills such as cooperation, innovation, communication, and leadership. Patricia Schuster, a 2007 graduate and PhD student in Radiation Detection and Nonproliferation, said “Robotics helped me learn a lot of skills necessary to work in a team and manage social dynamics.”

The AdamBots also instill social responsibility in team members through helping others. Some alumni, for example, now mentor other teams such as the 25 inner-city Detroit *FIRST* teams partnered with the Michigan Engineering Zone or local FTC teams.

In recent years, we have grown to record membership, from 31 students to 57 students and from 12 to 29 mentors. One particular area of growth is in female students and mentors. This year we have 13 female students and 6 female mentors. At the OCCRA (Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association) women’s diversity competition, our team provided the drivers for three other teams, as they did not have enough women. Several of our team captains are female.

**Impact in Spreading the Message and Promoting *FIRST***

Our team continually works to expand our impact by spreading the message and promoting *FIRST* through unique and innovative methods within our school, locally, nationally, and internationally.

We have strong partnerships in our school and school system. We work at Adams HS and have been allotted control over a large workroom and the CAD room by school administration. Our team is the only school club that can receive a Varsity letter. Additionally, trophy cases are displayed prominently at both schools. At school pep assemblies, we demonstrate our robot.

We maintain a strong partnership with the Rochester Community Schools (RCS) system. We recently gave a presentation to the RCS School Board about *FIRST* season accomplishments. The RCS Foundation allows us to use the administration building parking lot to raise money by charging to park during the Rochester Arts and Apples Festival. In 2009, we brought *FIRST* to another high school in RCS, Stoney Creek, by inviting students to join our team. Through this partnership, *FIRST* has grown at Stoney Creek HS and they are well prepared to separate and form another *FRC* team in the near future.

Elsewhere in our community we promote *FIRST* by demonstrating our robot. We have demonstrated and presented to 3 elementary schools in front of hundreds of students each year. We also have a strong partnership with Boy Scouts in our community. At the 2010 unveiling of the Robotics Merit Badge at Oakland University, we demonstrated our robot. We also present to several local troops each year.

In the past three years, we created a robotics-themed float for the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade, one of Michigan’s largest, televised Christmas parades, along with two other *FIRST* teams, the Killer Bees (FRC 33) and the FEDs (FRC 201). The float won 1st place for float design all 3 years and our team has been featured and interviewed on statewide television.

We also spread the message in our community through community outreach events. Team members wear team t-shirts at community outreach events, promoting our team and *FIRST*. During the fall, we participate in three local outreach events: CROP Walk, Halloween Hoot, and Buddy Walk. Our largest outreach event is the Rochester Area Relay for Life, benefiting the American Cancer Society, in which we are consistently the team with the most funds raised.

During the past year, we mentored a rookie FTC team, The Vikings (FTC #5183), from Van Hoosen Middle School after school several times a week. In recognition of our team’s exemplary effort, Tom Stephens, Vice Chairman and Chief Technology Officer of General Motors, wrote our team a letter, praising us for “fulfilling FIRST’s mission to inspire the young students at VHMS.” We also presented strategies for developing a successful business plan and website to the Byting Bulldogs Team 3539 from Romeo, Michigan.

Our impact in promoting *FIRST* is not limited to our local community. In 2011, we mentored Team LamBot (FRC 3478) from San Luis Potosí, México through Facebook and teleconferencing. Our assistance proved valuable when they won the Rookie All Star Award at both the Alamo Regional and the World Championship. We have continued and increased our assistance in 2012. In 2012, we also provided technical assistance to another Mexican *FRC* team 3480.

We also spread the message and help all *FIRST* teams online. Our websitecontains information on *FIRST, FIRST* games, our team, and a lengthy resources section. AdamBots.com now receives, on average, 70 different visitors a day and has received 30,000 different visitors from 150 countries during the past 4 years. *FIRST* has recognized our website as the standard for *FIRST* teams by awarding us 7 Best Website Awards since 2008, including the 2011 Championship Best Website. We also promote *FIRST* through social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

**Impact as a Year-round Team**

Our team is a year-round team, competing in two robotics competitions, off-season events, summer training programs, team road rallies, and more.

In the fall, we participate in *OCCRA,* a local robotics competition among 19 other high schools in Oakland County, Michigan. *OCCRA* is a student run competition in which adult help is not allowed. The team is student-led, the robot is student-built, and students do the fundraising. We won the Championship in 2009 and 2010 and *OCCRA* awarded us the Foundation Award in 2010 and 2011 as the most exemplary team both on and off the field.

We have have participated in *FIRST* since 1999. We are student-led and assisted by mentors. Students design, build, lead, create, write, and even teach the next student to fill their spot. Mentors are trained to assist students and allow maximum student involvement. During the summer, we also explore and perfect advanced technology to use in the robot during the competition season.

Team building and development is also important to the AdamBots. We do training programs in which experienced team leaders teach underclassmen about building, programming, CAD, and more. We participate in three off-season events, TARDEC, MARC, and IRI, which allow students to gain competition experience in a less stressful environment. During the fall and spring, we also do road rallies as team building activities. Students are grouped randomly with other students and an adult mentor and must solve clues and hints to reach destinations.

Fundraising is also integral to the AdamBots. In August, students do a can and bottle drive to raise money for *OCCRA*. Students also get to know each other because underclassmen are typically walkers and upperclassmen are drivers. We use the Rochester Community Schools administration building parking lot during the Arts and Apples Festival to fundraise by charging festival attendees parking fees over the weekend.

**Impactful Relationships with Sponsors**

We believe that strong relationships with sponsors benefit both our team and our sponsors. Current sponsors include General Motors Global Product Operations, Plex Systems Inc., Chrysler Foundation, SAIC, Wally Edgar Chevrolet, and eSigns.com. In 2011, we were proud to be the General Motors Team of the Year of 74 GM teams, recognizing us as a role model team on and off the field.

Many of our sponsors provide more than just financial support. General Motors and Chrysler have employees who volunteer as mentors. General Motors also provided transportation to the 2011 and 2012 Alamo Regional. Plex Systems, Inc. invited Marketing and Website sub-team members to tour their Auburn Hills, Michigan facilities and discuss effective marketing and website strategies with their Vice President of Marketing. This year, a new sponsor, eSigns.com, provided a banner for the 2011 Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade.

To thank our sponsors, we provide recognition on pit banners, documentation, on our robot, and on our website. We also helped General Motors promote *FIRST* through their GM Cares event, in which we displayed our robot along with other GM *FIRST* teams in front of thousands of GM employees at the Warren Technical Center. At the end each year, we also present framed thank-you letters to sponsors for their gracious support.

**Conclusion**

Through great partnership with team, sponsors and community and persistence, we believe that we have been successful in achieving *FIRST*’s mission offostering appreciation for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while inspiring young people to pursue career opportunities in these fields. Alumni and other organizations have identified us as an impactful, role model team. Ultimately, we believe we are deserving of consideration for the Chairman’s Award.