Our Company

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation’s mission is to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on, affordable, and sustainable robotics engineering programs.

We see a future where all students design and innovate as part of a team, experience failure, persevere, and embrace STEM. These lifelong learners emerge confident in their ability to make the world a better place.
Content

04 Welcome
06 Programs
08 VEX IQ Challenge
09 VEX Robotics Competition
10 VEX U
12 Financial
14 Fiscal Year 2017
15 Board of Directors
15 Sponsors
Dear Supporters,

On behalf of the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, I am grateful to our growing community for your encouragement and support of our work. We now engage students on over 20,000 competitive robotics teams in 50 countries. Our staff and event partners ensured a fantastic competition experience by offering over 1,700 events this past season. As a result of our collective effort, 93 percent of teams report their intent to return to competitive robotics next season.

The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics are working to make robotics reflective of the diverse world we live in. Our dynamic Girl Powered initiative includes team grants, workshops, Online Challenges, a new website and support materials. Over the course of the past year, the participation among young women grew from 23 percent to 29 percent. We are very excited about this and many of our other great new programs.

As we celebrate our accomplishments, I invite you to review the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation Annual Report for the 2016-2017 season. The report marks a significant step forward for the organization as we strive to increase transparency and engage our supporters more thoughtfully in our work. In reflecting on my first full year as CEO, I am truly thankful to each of you for your commitment to advancing students in robotics and STEM.

Regards,

Dan Mantz
Chairman and CEO
Robotics Education & Competition Foundation
“We rely on innovative thinkers that are able to take problems that have not been solved before, from scratch, and come up with those complex solutions.”

- Sean Love, Director of Business Development, Northrop Grumman
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

INSPIRING GREATNESS
STEM Education

Engaging in competitive robotics not only invites students to explore the fundamentals of STEM, but encourages important life skills like teamwork, communication, and collaboration. Even more compelling is the direct feedback from educators, who report that 9 out of 10 students express interest in pursuing STEM careers after participating in the VEX Robotics Competition.

Closing the STEM gap remains a complex and multifaceted issue and we are confident we’re on the right track. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that, during the period 2010–2020, employment in science and engineering occupations will grow by 18.7%, compared to 14.3% for all occupations. This is promising news and an even more compelling call to action to redouble our efforts to provide students with hands-on, fun, and challenging robotics engineering opportunities.

Creating a workforce prepared to solve our future problems depends on our ability to harness students’ natural curiosity, engage them in meaningful learning opportunities to incite passion and expand their interest in a variety of subjects. The VEX Competition experience provides just that type of environment, ensuring we have lifelong learners, excited to contribute to their future and ours.

The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation is excited to have a dedicated community of educators, coaches, partners, sponsors, and volunteers who will support us in the months and years to come.
The VEX IQ Challenge provides robotics engineering and research project challenges that enhance students’ appreciation for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). With guidance from teachers and mentors, students work in teams to design, build and program a robot to compete in an exciting annual game challenge.
The VEX Robotics Competition is the ultimate STEM activity. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, design, build and program robots in teams to compete in an annual engineering challenge presented in the form of a game. By competing year-round, students gain valuable life skills in addition to learning engineering and design principals.
VEX U takes the VEX Robotics Competition to the next level by opening it up to university students. College and university teams in VEX U build an innovative robot to score the most points possible in an annual engineering game challenge. When school pride is on the line, matches can get intense!
“Knowing the fields of science, technology and math, is a sure way to solve the world's problems that we will face in the coming years and decades.”

– Harshal Chaya, Product Manager, Texas Instruments
FINANCIAL

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Corporate and Foundations: 55%
- Government Grants: 41%
- Event Revenue: 4%

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

- Program Service: 84%
- Management and General: 13%
- Fundraising: 3%
“I can tell you the kids coming out of here are kids that can work at Google. They know how to work as a team. They know how to program and they know how to deal with failure.”

– Shivakumar Venkataraman, VP of Engineering, Google
## REC FOUNDATION FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS-UNAUDITED

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total</th>
<th>Program Service</th>
<th>General Operating Expenses</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
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<td><strong>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
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<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td>Event Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Grants and Assistance to Others</td>
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<td>Compensation and Benefits</td>
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<td>Advertising and Promotion</td>
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<td>Office Expense</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>707</td>
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<td>Event Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>7,462,826</td>
<td>1,169,837</td>
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</table>
OUR BOARD AND SPONSORS

REC FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Mantz
Chairman of the Board and CEO
Robotics Education & Competition Foundation

Ronald Arscheene
Utica Community Schools Center for Math, Science and Technology

Tony Norman
CEO
Innovation First International

Paul D. Copioli
President
VEX Robotics, Inc.

SPONSORS

- Diversified Woodcrafts
- EdCo
- Haynesboone
- Intel
- Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
- Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
- Kodak Pixpro
- Maker Mobile, Inc.
- Mathworks
- Microchip
- Navy
- Nissan
- Nordson
- NXP
- Palmetto Partners
- Robot Mesh
- Tata Consultancy Services
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc.
- Toyotetsu
- UPS
- U.S. Army
- Volvo Group Trucks
- Zeon

Northrop Grumman Foundation

NASA
DELL
Texas Instruments
Google
Autodesk
VEX
Robo
matter
TVA
Hexbug
IFI
Innovation First International
Rack Solutions
“What they do, this is more than just a passion. It is something they can translate into a viable career.”

- Major Jillian Peralta, Cadet Command, US Army