We are so grateful for what you, our donors, volunteers, mentors and students were able to accomplish in a challenging year.

Together we:

◊ Impacted hundreds of students and communities to collaborate and grow.
◊ Delivered new remote programs.
◊ Developed new DEI programs and training to expand our reach.
◊ Stood alongside our wonderful donors to ensure that the needs of the students and community had STEM advocacy.

We look forward to building on what we have learned and most especially proud of the entire volunteer community, who above all else continued to provide STEM-based inspiration to all the students in Washington State.

We are excited about the next season and the future of FIRST Washington. We’re thankful for your support, generosity and gracious professionalism, now and always.

With gratitude,

Erica Beckstrom
President-FIRST Washington
Mission and Vision
Our vision is to empower more young people from diverse backgrounds to become leaders and innovators in STEM.
Our mission is to inspire diverse young people to participate in team-based STEM programs supported by a knowledgeable volunteer community.

Why FIRST?
◊ FIRST Washington engages students ages 6-18 in exciting mentor-based programs that build STEM skills, inspire innovation, and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership. We serve over 15,000 youth and are the largest STEM afterschool program in Washington.
◊ Students who participate in FIRST Washington are three times more likely than comparison students to show an interest in STEM careers.
◊ Students who participate in FIRST Washington are almost three times more likely (70% vs 25%) than comparison students declare major in Engineering and Sciences
◊ Female students who participate in FIRST Washington are five times (59% vs 12%) more likely to declare major in Engineering and Sciences than comparison group.

What’s Different This Year?
Like all non-profits across the country, FIRST Washington has felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, families, teachers and supporters are our stakeholders. As traditional in-person schooling has been canceled since April 2020, FIRST Washington has had to become innovative in this environment.

FIRST is giving me experience I dreamed of. ... With FIRST, I’m learning how to collaborate and innovate.
— Ayla C., FIRST Student
FIRST LEGO League: FIRST LEGO League Explore is an exciting opportunity for budding young scientists grades 2-4. This program encompasses core concepts from the other FIRST Washington programs to inspire, excite, and introduce youths to the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math.

First LEGO League Explore teams are formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adults that mentor the students who build models and create posters to display what they have learned. First LEGO League Explore is designed to build interest in science and technology through a real-world challenge that can be solved using research, critical thinking, and imagination.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge is a learning opportunity designed for youths grades 4-8 to tackle real-world challenges. First LEGO League Challenge is the largest program within FIRST Washington, with nearly 700 teams each year. Students get to brainstorm, solve problems, build, and compete using their creations.

First LEGO League Challenge teams are formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adults organize and mentor the students, while the youths work on the challenge. Students work as a team to research a problem within their community and prepare a presentation about it, and build a robot to complete missions.
MEG’S STORY

I can’t imagine my life without FIRST. Through the program, I have grown my technical knowledge and gained a greater interest in STEM in general. I have also found another passion for community service and coordinating events. I have cultivated leadership and collaboration skills and met new friends, mentors, and role models. I have learned how to take initiative and stride towards greater goals. FIRST has given me something to strive towards every season as I am constantly working to increase my knowledge, improve my team, build the best robot we can, and open new opportunities. Even though it can be difficult work sometimes, you get back the effort you put in, tenfold.

**FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC):**

FIRST Tech Challenge is a learning opportunity designed for youths grades 9-12. With a new challenge every year, students must design, build, program robots to compete with and against other teams.

FTC teams can be formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adult mentors and to help educate and guide them in the challenge they’ve been given. Mentors guide the students in raising funds, designing, and maintaining the team brand, and working with their community to earn awards.

**FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC):**

FIRST Robotics Competition is designed for youths grades 9-12 and combines the excitement of sports with the rigor of science and technology. With strict rules, limited resources and time, students are tasked with the challenge of creating an industrial-size robot to compete; they must build and program the robot to compete and cooperate with other teams.

FRC teams can be formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adult mentors to help educate and guide the students in the challenge they’ve been given, raising funds, designing and maintaining the team brand, and working with their community to earn specific awards.
LYDIA’S STORY

I joined FIRST robotics in 6th grade after hearing about the club from a friend, and I have stuck with it ever since! When learning about FIRST I thought that being able to compete was really cool. I also really appreciated that there is a place for everyone and that there is more that goes into a great team besides just a great robot. I am the Engineering Notebook Manager for my team but I also work on organizing outreach activities and managing our budget. FIRST has allowed me to experiment with many different areas of STEM. I love that I am able to apply my leadership and business skills to a STEM environment. I appreciate that FIRST encourages gracious professionalism and wants members to use technology and innovation to help the community.

FIRST Washington has provided professional development for 940 Washington teachers, impacting 50,000 underrepresented youth annually.

51% of FIRST Washington female alumni declared a major in computer science or engineering

— Brandeis University, Center for Youth and Communities
FINANCIAL DATA

REVENUE

- Program Fees: $597,000 (33%)
- Grants: $921,434 (17%)
- Contributions: $306,659 (50%)

EXPENSES

- Fundraising: $300,526 (19%)
- Administration: $117,296 (7%)
- Program Services: $1,165,963 (74%)
All of this experience is allowing me to learn so much in an area I’m passionate about, and in a much better way than in the classroom...

— Ayla C., FIRST Student