



Developing a FIRST Scholarship Opportunity

One of the highlights of the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship event is the awarding of educational scholarships for FIRST students. For the 2002 season, 65 merit-based scholarship opportunities amounting to more than \$1.6 million were available to eligible FIRST high school participants. Some scholarships may be used for any course of study; others are specifically awarded for undergraduate degrees in Fluid Power Technology, Science, Mathematics, Computer Science, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Nursing Sciences, as well as several engineering disciplines. Furthermore, while the majority of the scholarship opportunities are awarded for enrollment at a specific school, there are a few scholarships in which the recipient may select the college/university to apply the funds to.

Most FIRST scholarship contributors are the colleges and universities themselves. There is also a growing number of scholarships funded entirely or in part by corporate sponsors and professional associations.

Providing a scholarship opportunity through FIRST is a wonderful opportunity for a school, corporation, or professional association to gain exposure to 20,000+ talented and motivated high school students across the United States, Brazil, Canada and the United Kingdom who are interested in engineering, science, technology, and mathematics.

All contributors are eligible to create and fund a named scholarship. The scholarship contributor specifies the application/eligibility criteria for the award and is responsible for processing and reviewing the scholarship applications, as well as selecting the award recipient.

Exposure for the University/College Offering a Scholarship Opportunity Includes:

September - The complete scholarship offering will be listed on the FIRST website along with a hyperlink to the contributor's website and/or scholarship page.

January – The FIRST Robotics Competition manual will list all scholarship opportunities and give full criteria for each scholarship opportunity.

March/April - FIRST Robotics Competition Regional and Championship program books will contain a brief description of the scholarship opportunity.

April – Unless otherwise noted, all scholarships and recipients are announced at The FIRST Robotics Competition Championship. Depending on the financial value of the scholarship opportunity, the school/professional association may receive table space to promote their school to high school students at the FIRST Championship event.

If you are interested in offering a scholarship opportunity through FIRST, please contact Lynn Zuccarelli Austin, Regional Manager, at 603-666-3906 ext. 435 or MITC Organizing Partner for FIRST Robotics Competition Chesapeake Regional at 301-738-6022.
