

**Title of Session:** FIRST Robotics  
**Moderator:** Patricia Chen  
**Title of File:** 20070213robotics  
**Date:** February 13, 2007

Room: FIRST Robotics Group (K-12 Students)

**BJB2:** Jessica is here to learn about Robotics, Pat

**PatriciaCh:** Jessica...please tell us about yourself

**PatriciaCh:** I teach 7th grade math in Florida

**JessicaMur:** I teach photo and graphic design at a hs in nj

**JessicaMur:** I am part of the applied tech dept and we have a robotics program

**DavidWe:** fine thanks...I'm basically making dinner, but thought I would come join the discussion

**PatriciaCh:** where are you located?

**PatriciaCh:** do you have a FIRST team in your school?

**PatriciaCh:** the more the merrier

**DavidWe** smiles

**JessicaMur:** I'm in Tinton falls at Monmouth Regional.....not sure if we have FIRST actually lol

**PatriciaCh:** what is the name of your high school?

**JessicaMur:** I just figured that since it was part of our dept, I should probably know something about it

**JessicaMur:** Monmouth regional hs

**DavidWe:** Bruce Springsteen land?

**DavidWe** is in Bergen County, NJ

**JessicaMur:** hahaha yes

**JessicaMur:** stone pony and all

**PatriciaCh:** this is the link [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

**DavidWe** has been to the Stone Pony but didn't see Bruce

**JessicaMur:** control click?

**PatriciaCh:** yes

**PatriciaCh:**

<https://my.usfirst.org/myarea/index.lasso?page=teamlst&menu=false&event=NJ>

**PatriciaCh:** the above link is the teams participating in the NJ Regional...you can check to see if your school is listed

**JessicaMur:** I don't see us

**DavidWe** smiles

**JessicaMur:** can you tell us about FIRST so that maybe I could introduce it to our dept

**PatriciaCh:** FIRST was founded by Dean Kamen

**PatriciaCh:** the idea...to excite kids about math, science and technology

**PatriciaCh:** it is a terrific program....it shows how ...what the kids learn put into reality....and there is a lot of scholarship money out there

**PatriciaCh:** on the high school level - there are two program VEX and FRC

**JessicaMur:** the difference?

**PatriciaCh:** VEX ...the program kicked off in the fall.....cost of the program is less than FRC....the robots are smaller in scale...

**PatriciaCh:** FRC cost more to run....and the robots are much bigger....

**PatriciaCh:** the kids love FRC...bigger is better for them

**JessicaMur:** how big are you talking?

**PatriciaCh:** I am involved with FRC....our team # is 180....we started a VEX team this year

**PatriciaCh:** <http://soap.circuitrunners.com/2006/movies/florida/>

**PatriciaCh:** the above link will take you to the 2006 Florida Regional...

**PatriciaCh:** click any of the wmv extensions....it is one of the matches from our regional

**JessicaMur:** okay I'm going to check it out for a min

**PatriciaCh:** you will see the size and the type of competitions level

**JessicaMur:** WOW!!! that's amazing. Our robots are tiny things that deliver valentines to the preschoolers

**PatriciaCh:** the robot is 130 lbs with the batter...

**PatriciaCh:** that is why the kids like FRC....the robots you are referring to is like the VEX bots

**JessicaMur:** so how can a school get involved?

**PatriciaCh:** this a terrific program....it can involve the smartest to the I don't care about school

**PatriciaCh:** you need engineers to help with the designing of the robot...

**PatriciaCh:** you need the support of your principal and school board

**PatriciaCh:** the cost is high.....there is a cost limit - for the construction of the robot....but entrance fees are high...and cost of transportation and hotels adds up as well...I think the cost is around \$40 - 50,000

**JessicaMur:** oooooooh

**JessicaMur:** wow

**PatriciaCh:** I believe the cost of 1 regional and Atlanta....just fees alone....is about \$15,000

**JessicaMur:** besides the actual competition and construction, what else does it involve?

**PatriciaCh:** the fees.... you get a kit...you can build a robot from the kit and be competitive

**JessicaMur:** and you mentioned scholarships earlier?

**PatriciaCh:** time is a major factor

**PatriciaCh:** you have 6 weeks to design and build this robot....this is a crucial week for all teams

**PatriciaCh:** the robot has to be shipped to a regional event - put on a Fed Ex truck - no later than 5 PM on 2-20

**PatriciaCh:** yes...there are lots of scholarship...some are regional type...like mid-westerns only...some are school specific

**JessicaMur:** very involved. is this a high school level event only?

**PatriciaCh:** <http://www.usfirst.org/community/frc/content.aspx?id=512>

**PatriciaCh:** the above link is the scholarships available

**JessicaMur:** okay thanks

**PatriciaCh:** FRC and VEX is high school only...FLL and JFLL - middle and elementary schools respectively...

**PatriciaCh:** they use LEGOs for their competition...

**JessicaMur:** oh that is really neat and safe lol

**PatriciaCh:** Olin College of Engineering is offering a \$130,000 for al students who are admitted ...they are located in Boston...they have been doing this for the last 4 years

**PatriciaCh:** I looked at the list....it has grown since my son and daughter were involved

**JessicaMur:** I'm not sure if you mentioned this already, but how old is the program?

**PatriciaCh:** the program is ...I am guessing now....15 years old...

**PatriciaCh:** the thing to do ...go to the NJ regional...take your dept chair, principal and school board members....when they see the energy that is generated by the students....that is when people understand...why we hang in and try to make it work for the kids

**PatriciaCh:** my brother in law retired from teaching in NYC....but he was subbing for a teacher....his principal asked him to stop in to help a fellow teacher...not knowing it was FIRST....he is hooked and is working with the team.....

**JessicaMur:** that's amazing!

**JessicaMur:** I wonder if our robotics teacher even knows about it

**PatriciaCh:** I talked about how great the program is.....but you have to go to a regional....and see the energy level

**JessicaMur:** is it well publicized in the field?

**PatriciaCh:** yes and no.....

**PatriciaCh:** the regional is like going to a NCAA Finals four event

**PatriciaCh:** people or FIRSTers are great people.....they are willing to help you out....even in competitions....

**PatriciaCh:** the motto for us is GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM

**JessicaMur:** that's one that should be on a bumper sticker

**PatriciaCh:** we believe in cooperation.....if you team needs a part....and my team can make it for you....we will do it...it doesn't matter if we are allies or opponents

**JessicaMur:** that's great so kids learn the value of camaraderie and competition

**PatriciaCh:** yes...they do....this year...I am also involved with another competition...Future City....I like it...but I don't see the graciousness at all

**PatriciaCh:** kids have to learn.....we can do more through cooperation...working together

**JessicaMur:** yeah I think that's important. well I thank you for your time, but I must go

**PatriciaCh:** ok....contact me if you need more info...we meet again in 2 weeks..have your robotics teacher log in

**PatriciaCh:** but go to the event..you will have a great time

**DavidWe** likes "Gracious Professionalism"

**PatriciaCh:** so do I....I have a hard explaining that to middle or even high schoolers....

**JessicaMur:** I am definitely going to share this info at our next dept mtg and I will join the next chat hopefully with our robotics teacher

**PatriciaCh:** look at our competitive sports

**JessicaMur:** thanks again!!

**PatriciaCh:** no problem...let me know how I can help....there is more you need to learn about

**JessicaMur:** okay bye!

**PatriciaCh:** also check [www.chiefdelphi.com](http://www.chiefdelphi.com)

**JessicaMur** left the room (signed off).

**BJB2:** good job, Pat!

**DavidWe** agrees with BJ

**PatriciaCh:** thanks...there is so much to say

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** Always!

**PatriciaCh:** not enough time....

**BJB2:** always!

**DavidWe** smiles

**PatriciaCh:** the links help though....but going to an event is the best thing

**DavidWe:** For people interested in knowing more about FIRST Robotics....

**DavidWe** . o O ( [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) )

**DavidWe:** Is that the web site?

**DavidWe** checks

**PatriciaCh:** yes.... and if you want to see the game

**DavidWe:** Seems to be

**DavidWe:** I meet teachers (math and science, especially) all the time

**PatriciaCh:** <http://soap.circuitrunners.com/2006/movies/florida/>

**PatriciaCh:** check out the Florida Regional....

**PatriciaCh:** I never get the chance to tell people about the writing and graphics components of the competition

**PatriciaCh:** my team won the visual award in 2006 this is the link  
[http://soap.circuitrunners.com/2006/movies/florida/fl\\_award\\_autodesk\\_visualization.wmv](http://soap.circuitrunners.com/2006/movies/florida/fl_award_autodesk_visualization.wmv)

**DavidWe:** Congratulations, Pat

**PatriciaCh:** thanks....we also won the regional with our two alliance partners...

**PatriciaCh:** it is a lot of work...but ...lots of fun as well

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** very cool