

January 2015

A link to headquarter's newsletter about who the FIRST Senior Mentors are and what we do may be found [here](#). Happy new year!

Diane Cabiness, FIRST Senior Mentor – Illinois



ILLINOIS FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are on Facebook, follow Illinois FIRST, FLL Illinois/INSciTE Illinois, and Diane Cabiness (FIRST logo is my profile pic). If you are on Twitter, follow @IllinoisFIRST, @DanGreen_FIRST, @FTCIllinois, @FLLIllinois, and @DCabiness. Many fellow Illinois FIRST FTC and FRC teams have Facebook and Twitter accounts also. It's a nice way to connect and see what other Illinois teams are doing.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Colleges, universities, professional associations, and corporations offer college scholarships to participants on FIRST FTC and FRC teams. Millions of dollars are available to our students. Scholarship information may be found [here](#).

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

A new robot movie, CHAPPiE, will be released this spring. Contact your local movie theatre to arrange for your team to set up a demo for the opening weekend. The trailer may be viewed [here](#).

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Barnes & Noble offers fundraising opportunities locally including in-store bookfairs and holiday gift wrapping. They encourage in-store events and visibility. Bring your team and robot! Contact your local store manager. More details may be found [here](#).

IL FIRST OUTREACH

All programs in FIRST throughout Illinois have the opportunity to partner with the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Simply have your team collect aluminum tabs (soda, juice, adult beverage, or energy drink) from home, family, friends, and school. Collected tabs may be turned in at expos, qualifiers, tournaments and regionals. We will convert the soda tabs into cash and present a check to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.



The 1st Jr.FLL Expo for Illinois was held last month in Oswego for 10 teams. Two events will be held in March in Naperville and Belleville, and two events in April will be held in Buffalo Grove and Springfield. Registration details may be found [here](#). We now have 68 Jr.FLL teams registered in Illinois. Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois Jr.FLL program partner, Mary Buchanan, at jrFLL-contact@ILfirst.org.



33 FLL qualifying tournaments were held in November and December in Illinois. Thanks to all the QTCs (Qualifying Tournament Coordinators) and all volunteers that made it possible for our 510 Illinois teams to compete. The Northern Championship Tournament will take place in Elgin on Saturday, January 17. The Central Championship will be held in Champaign on January 24. The 1st Place Champion's Award winner from each championship tournament will have a slot at World Festival in April 2015. Check the details on the IL FIRST website [here](#) to attend one of the Championship Tournaments for free or volunteer via VIMS. Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois FLL program partner, Diane Michalczuk, at contactfllillinois@gmail.com.



January 15 is the deadline for the 2nd annual FTC Tshirt design contest. More details may be found [here](#).

The deadline to nominate a 10th or 11th grade team member for Dean's List is 10 calendar days prior to a qualifying event. This is a new opportunity for FTC students this year so be sure to take advantage of it. The FIRST FTC Dean's List Submission Guide for Mentors has all the details and may be found [here](#).

The Control Award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to enhance the robot's functionality on the field. This award is given to the team that demonstrates innovative thinking in the control system to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, enhancing

mechanical systems with intelligent control, or using sensors to achieve better results on the field. The control component should work consistently on the field. The team's Engineering Notebook should contain details about the implementation of the software, sensors, and mechanical control.

League Play meets have completed and the League Championship will be held in Crystal Lake on January 24. 5 of 8 traditional qualifying tournaments continue this month and last through the beginning of February. The schedule for both may be found [here](#). Specific questions may be directed to either of our Illinois FTC program partners: Sue Kunzeman at FTC-contact@ILfirst.org or Jonathan Weiland at jwFTCil@gmail.com.

FRC

FIRST®Robotics Competition



Only a few days left until kickoff. This is a great time to watch recorded broadcasts of Behind the Lines. Links may be found [here](#). Information regarding software downloads and the 2015 administrative manual may be found [here](#)

Official FIRST kickoffs will be held at Bradley University in Peoria and Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago on January 3.

Some dates worth noting:

January 3 - Kickoff!

January 3 – 2nd round of FIRST Choice, 11am Central

January 7 – Behind the Lines "2015 Kit of Parts", 7pm

January 9 – deadline to finalize team profile on TMS (good opportunity to acknowledge all your sponsors)

A full calendar for FRC events may be found [here](#).



Any questions on Illinois *FIRST* programs or events may be directed to our Executive Director, Dan Green at dgreen@usfirst.org. Be sure to follow Dan's blog on the IL *FIRST* website ([here](#)).

Feel free to contact me with questions on any of our FIRST programs in Illinois. Share success stories, pictures, outreach activities, and workshop/scrimmage information with me for future newsletters and/or for our IL FIRST website.

Diane Cabiness, FIRST Senior Mentor – Illinois

V 630-222-6443

E DCabiness@usfirst.org

T @DCabiness

Please feel free to share this newsletter with mentors, parents, students, and sponsors so everyone knows what is happening throughout Illinois for all *FIRST* programs.

www.ILFIRST.org