Fall/Winter 2013

Dear Northern Virginia Business Leader,

One of the most effective gateways to STEM is competitive robotics. Last summer, we saw this in effect across Northern Virginia as over 700 public school students were actively engaged in our week-long robotics camps, where they learned basic computer programming, engineering and technology skills. In addition, they gained vital experience in teamwork, collaboration, competition, critical thinking and problem solving. These skills are in high demand in our workforce and trail-blaze the path for future programs and degrees in STEM disciplines, ultimately fueling the STEM pipeline in the process.

700 students is a great start, but we are aiming higher because the demand for continuing programs throughout the school year has been overwhelming in response to the success of the summer robotics camps. SySTEMic Solutions, Northern Virginia Community College’s STEM outreach program, has launched the ‘SySTEMic Solutions Robotics Funding Campaign’ to put **100 VEX robotics teams in public schools and community centers this school year**. This effort offers students, teachers, and parents the chance to explore robotics and participate in exciting regional and state-wide competitions.

With support from the Chambers in Arlington, Dulles, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Reston, and the Northern Virginia Technology Council, we are asking you to join us in this campaign to jumpstart competitive robotics and build our STEM pipeline by becoming a founding partner in NOVA Robotics. **A $5,000 contribution provides year-long program support for a teacher-led team of 6-10 students and includes equipment, software, competition registration fees, teacher professional development and more.**

As funding for the program expansion is secured for schools across Northern Virginia, there is an ancillary benefit to your contribution; the opportunity to inspire and shape the next generation of engineers and computer scientists in a myriad of direct ways, including serving as mentors for robotics teams.

The future of STEM starts here. Competitive robotics makes a strong impression in the minds of young students. With your support, these impressions can become inspiration, inspiration becomes ingenuity, and ingenuity becomes impact for a superlative STEM workforce in our region. On behalf of students and teachers who are anxious to get started, please take a moment to review the enclosed materials and consider making an important contribution that will bring competitive robotics to more schools now.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

Amy Harris  
Director, SySTEMic Solutions  
aharris@nvcc.edu  
703.257.6689
SySTEMic Solutions, NOVA’s STEM outreach program, is developing a pipeline of student-centered activities from elementary school to career. Due to student and school demand, we are launching a campaign to start 100 robotics teams in elementary, middle, and high schools across Northern Virginia.

What makes competitive robotics so important? Students involved in competitive robotics develop skills in computer programming, engineering, and science, but more than that they practice communicating and collaborating as a team while using creativity and critical thinking to problem solve. Competitive robotics engages the imagination to pursue the STEM disciplines and develops the precision needed to excel in them. It is an all-encompassing gateway to future STEM programs, degrees and careers that will ensure the future success of the STEM workforce in Northern Virginia.

Our summer robotics camps had unprecedented success this year with more students involved than ever before. Camps filled to capacity early in the registration process and waiting lists were drawn up for young people eager to get involved. This success has driven demand from students, parents, teachers and schools across Northern Virginia to continue competitive robotics programs during the school year.

“I can testify that not only did they learn how to build a robot, they learned a more valuable lesson when it comes to teamwork.”

- Gloria Desautelles
Summer Camp Parent

7 of 100 TEAMS funded so far!

WWW.NVCC.EDU/SYSTEMIC
Here’s what we need to start: An investment of $5,000 to fund a team includes equipment, software, registration fees, and teacher training. Regional STEM coordinators designated for each county will work directly with schools and volunteers to ensure that teams are successful in attending one competition. Competitive robotics programs are year-long and have a sustained impact on students, parents, teachers and schools.

- Long and Short Term ROI
  - 30 new elementary school robotics teams, with 100% reusable equipment.
  - 70 new middle and high school VEX teams will reach over 700 middle and high school students, with equipment that is over 90% reusable.
  - SySTEMic Solutions is providing intensive hands-on professional development to teachers, which increases their ability to apply 21st century skills in and out of the classroom.
  - Students will develop interest and skills in computer programming through graphical and C based language at an earlier age, laying the foundation for increased interest in computer science and math.

- Become a Founding Partner in the SySTEMic Solutions Robotics Funding Campaign

SySTEMic Solutions has secured $35,000 to provide grants for 7 of 100 new regional robotics teams. Since the beginning of the school year we have been accepting new team grant applications, providing training, and recruiting coaches at schools in Northern Virginia. Funding for a team includes equipment, software, and teacher training. SySTEMic Solutions’ regional coordinators, who are located on NOVA campuses, provide the support to ensure that each new team attends one local competition.

- Team Sponsorships

Students work in teams of six to ten with a teacher who serves as coach and with an outside mentor. Founding Partner Sponsorships fund the creation of a team and may be bundled with other events and programs.

  - $25,000 Founding Partner - Includes state and local tournaments and summer camp sponsorship
  - $15,000 Founding Partner - Includes local tournament and summer camp sponsorship
  - $10,000 Founding Partner - Includes summer camp sponsorship
  - $5,000 Founding Partner - Team sponsorship

- Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

  - $10,000 VEX State Championship Sponsorship - VEX State Championship in Richmond, VA - February, 2014
  - $5,000 Local Competition Sponsorship - School and/or county competitions
  - $5,000 Team Summer Camps Sponsorship - One and two week camps at NOVA and/or local schools with robotics competitions and STEM education for entire robotics team

- Laptop Donations

Laptops are needed for each team and new or refurbished (up to 2 years old) equipment can be donated

Act today to jumpstart competitive robotics in Northern Virginia!
Please complete the attached donor form or go online to:
www.nvcc.edu/alumni-and-friends/gifts/online.htm

Contact Director Amy Harris
(703) 257-6689 or aharris@nvcc.edu
www.nvcc.edu/systemic

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics
# FOUNDER PARTNER SPONSORSHIP FORM

## Donor Information

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<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
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## Contribution Details

<table>
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<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Founding Partner for Robotics Team - Includes State, Summer Camp, and Local Tournament Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>$15,000</td>
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## Payment

**Click on link to sponsor** [www.nvcc.edu/alumni-and-friends/gifts/online.htm](http://www.nvcc.edu/alumni-and-friends/gifts/online.htm)

- OR -

**Write check to:** Northern Virginia Community College Education Foundation  
Check memo: NOVA Robotics Campaign

**Send to:**  
NOVA SySTEMic Solutions  
ATTN: Amy Harris  
9485 Innovation Dr.  
Manassas, VA 20110

501(c)3 Federal Tax ID #51-0249730