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FCA Foundation Energizes Michigan Robotics Teams With More Than \$226,000 in Grants

- Grants enable 57 teams, nearly 1,300 middle and high school students, to participate in STEM-building robotics programs
- FIRST in Michigan awarded grant to support First Lego League program

January 7, 2017, Auburn Hills, Mich. - The FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of North American automaker FCA US LLC, today awarded more than \$226,000 in grants to 57 Michigan robotics teams and programs. The grants, ranging from \$400 to \$4,725, will help 1,300 middle and high school students offset the costs, i.e. registration fees, parts and materials and team apparel associated with competing in STEM-building [FIRST Robotics Competition](#) (FRC) and [FIRST Tech Challenge](#) (FTC) programs. FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

"The long-standing commitment and engagement FCA US has with FIRST is embodied by the dedication of our employees who give generously of their time and skills to help mentor students and serve as competition coordinators," said Lesley Slavitt, Head of Civic Engagement, FCA US LLC and CEO of the FCA Foundation. "It is a continuing privilege to ensure their hard work and steadfast contributions support and further positive outcomes for youth in our communities."

FCA US employs more than 35,000 people in the state of Michigan.

Under strict rules, limited resources and an intense six-week time limit, FRC teams (25+ members, grades 9-12) are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, build, and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult game against like-minded competitors. Similarly, FTC teams (10+ members, grades 7-12) are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge.

Details of the 2017 FRC season challenge, [FIRST® STEAMWORKSSM](#), will be revealed on [Saturday, January 7, 2017, 10:30 a.m. EST](#) – the official start of the design and build season. Teams that attend ["local" kickoff events](#) will have the opportunity to compare notes, get ideas, make friends, find mentoring teams, learn the game, pick up the Kickoff Kit from the Kit of Parts and get geared up for the exciting competition season.

Both the FRC and FTC programs will conclude their respective seasons with FIRST Championships in April.

"The real-world experience that students gain through their participation in FIRST programs is invaluable in preparing students for the future," said [Phil Jansen](#), Head of Product Development, FCA – North America. "We are proud to partner with an organization that taps into such formidable minds and encourages deeper levels of ingenuity."

The FCA Foundation also awarded [First in Michigan](#), the state's robotics association, a \$1,500 grant to support its First Lego League (FLL) program. FLL teams (up to 10 members, grades 4-8) research a real-world problem, such as food safety, recycling, energy, etc., and are challenged to develop a solution using LEGO MINDSTORMS®.

Michigan: FIRST Robotics Competition Teams awarded a \$4,725 grant from the FCA Foundation:

School(s)	Team No.	Team Name
Almont High School	4961	Shock and Awe-sum
Avondale High School (Auburn Hills)	3538	RoboJackets

Berkley High School & Hazel Park & Shrine Catholic HS	247	Da Bears
Birmingham Seaholm & Birmingham Groves HS	2960	Maple Machine
Bishop Foley Catholic High School (Madison Heights)	910	Foley Freeze
Bloomfield Hills High School	2834	Bionic Black Hawks
Brandon High School & Holly High School	68	Truck Town Thunder
Capac Community Schools	2604	Metal and Soul
Cardinal Mooney Catholic (Marine City)	4779	RoboSapiens
Carman-Ainsworth High School (Flint)	314	The Megatron Oracles
Central High School (Grand Rapids)	904	D Cubed
Detroit Catholic Central High School (Novi)	5907	CC Shambots
Dundee High School	4395	Dundee ViBots
Ferndale High School	1025	IMPIS
Genesee Robotics Area Youth Team	1322	GRAYT
*Goodrich High School	70, 494	More Martians / Martians
Grand Blanc High School	2337	EngiNERDs
Gross Ile High School	5498	Wired Devils
Hartland High School	3536	Electro Eagles
Imlay City High School	5048	Spartronics
International Academy East (Troy)	4384	Benzene Bots
Lake Orion High School	302	Dragons
Lapeer County Ed-Tech	3535	Galaktech Invaders
Linden High School	3568	Robo Eagles
Livonia Public Schools	2832	The Livonia Warriors
Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences (Armada)	1718	Fighting PI
Mercy High School (Farmington Hills)	1481	The Riveters
Notre Dame Preparatory (Auburn Hills)	33	Killer Bees
Oakland Tech Northeast (Pontiac)	1	Juggernauts
OSMTech Academy at Clarkston High School	27	Team RUSH
Our Lady of the Lakes (Waterford)	5053	Lakers
Oxford Community Schools	2137	TORC
Pontiac Academy for Excellence	6117	Team Eagle
Pontiac High School	51	Wings of Fire
Rochester Adams & Stoney Creek High Schools	245	Adambots
Rochester High School	201	The Feds
Skyline High School (Ann Arbor)	3322	Eagle Imperium
South Lake High School (St. Clair Shores)	5214	Cavbots
South Lyon Community Schools & South Lyon Robotics	3641	Flying Toasters
Southeastern High School of Technology (Detroit)	4851	Jungaleers
St. Clair High School	5843	Flurb
Stevenson, Henry Ford II & Utica High Schools (Sterling Hgts.)	2851	Crevolution
Stoney Creek High School (Rochester Hills)	5436	CyberCats
Trenton High School	5090	Torque-Nados
Walled Lake Schools	308	The Monsters
Warren Consolidated Schools	818	Steel Armadillos
Waterford Kettering High School	3098	The Captains

Michigan: FIRST Tech Challenge teams awarded a \$400 grant from the FCA Foundation:

School(s)	Team No.	Team Name
Bloomfield Hills Middle School	8593	No Limits
Goodrich Middle School	5289	Martians
Home Middle School (Fenton)	5954	Lightning Boltz

Linden Middle School	7031	Roboeaglets
*North Branch Middle School	7065, 7066, 7067	NBMS
Our Lady of the Lakes (Waterford)	7583	Lakers
Oxford Middle School & Oxford Area Middle School	5291	TOWR

* Teams will share a grant.

FCA Foundation

The [FCA Foundation](#) is the charitable arm of North American automaker FCA US LLC, a member of the [Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V.](#) (FCA) family of companies. The FCA Foundation invests in U.S. charitable organizations and initiatives that help empower people, build strong, resilient communities and generate meaningful and measurable societal impacts. In support of these objectives, the FCA Foundation focuses on the following foundational pillars: youth development, education, support for military, veterans and their families, and community service.

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