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FIRST South Carolina Executive Director

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Dear Sir or Madam,

FIRST South Carolina helps students throughout South Carolina develop science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills so that they can be the next generation of STEM leaders. We provide SC students access to the *FIRST* progression of k-12 robotics programs, beginning with the *FIRST* LEGO® League (FLL), progressing into *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC), and finally advancing to the pinnacle of youth robotics, *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC). *FIRST* South Carolina serves students in private, charter, public, and home school environments.

We will use this generous funding to provide hands-on robotics activities, state sanctioned competitions, training sessions, STEM workshops, student and mentor networking events, and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) opportunities for our SC participants. We will provide education through professional development and enrichment activities for k-12 students – all designed to engage and inspire students to pursue careers and become the leading forces in STEM fields.

This funding will enable *FIRST* South Carolina to expand students' participation in and access to valuable and interactive STEM activities that were unavailable during Covid. *FIRST* South Carolina was one of the few organizations that successfully and safely hosted in-person competitions in 2021-22. With this funding we plan to host more in-person competitions throughout the great state of South Carolina in 2022-2023. We invite all legislative officials to attend these events to see our incredible students and the impact this funding is providing. Thank you for this opportunity to be a bigger part of advancing SC's future manufacturing and technology workforce.

Thank you to Rep. Sylleste Davis for procuring SC flags for the teams representing our state at the *FIRST* World Championship in April. And we are grateful to Governor McMaster, Lt. Governor Evette, and US Senator Scott for addressing our robotics community through videos supporting students. The 2022-23 season will begin August of this year, and we would love to be able to promote your support for STEM education and *FIRST* South Carolina.

Thank you,

Giselle Cheeseman
FIRST South Carolina Executive Director

Charles Angel
FIRST SC Legislative Liaison

Karen Cooke
Community and Corporate Liaison