**FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Torbotics Team 2080**

**Hammond High Magnet School**

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Dear Potential Sponsor:

We are proud to announce that Hammond High Magnet School’s FIRST Robotics Competition team Torbotics is entering its twelfth competitive season. Over the years, we have participated in FIRST regional competitions in Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, and Florida. During the past six seasons, we have been fortunate to win the prestigious Chairman’s Award four times and were invited to the *FIRST* World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri, and Houston, Texas, where we competed with teams globally.

*FIRST*, an acronym for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”, is a robotics competition founded by inventor, Dean Kamen. It is an international phenomenon which pairs high school students with professional mentors. Together, students and their mentors build a robot which will compete in a sporting-like event, while also learning to run their team like a business and placing a strong value on taking measures to aid in community development. Through providing students with hands-on experiences working along-side knowledgeable engineering, business professionals and scientists, these experts are then seen as role models in much the same way professional athletes are regarded. These *FIRST* values and experiences are incorporated in our four-year engineering curriculum and afterschool program here at Hammond High Magnet School.

We are currently seeking financial support for the 2018-2019 competition season. Entry fees alone for all competitions will cost over $15,000. With your support, we will be providing over one hundred team members with the opportunity to travel to local competitions, thirty of which will travel to out of state regional competitions. In addition to our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team, we have three *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) teams which compete in a separate program under the *FIRST* umbrella. Typically comprised of 9th and 10th grade students, each FTC team is also mentored exclusively by more experienced FRC team members in addition to professionals. In order to meet the needs of our competition robotics teams annually, Torbotics must raise upward of seventy thousand dollars to purchase building and electronic materials, software upgrades, pay competition entry fees, cover business and community outreach needs and to finance travel expenses for all students.

We are graciously seeking your support with raising funds to support our students in these endeavors. To quote Dean Kamen in a recent interview, “(We) don’t use kids to build robots. (We) use robots to build kids.” Your donation will greatly contribute to this overall goal. Torbotics also ensures that each sponsor/donor receives recognition for their contribution. The team will honor your generosity and stewardship in various ways depending on the amount donated; for example, placing your company’s name/logo on one of our competition robots or a banner dedicated to your business to display in our pit area at competitions and community events.

Your support of our team offers many benefits to the community. Local students will have the chance to learn and develop many hands-on STEM skills through our extensive afterschool program. In addition, our students will gain competency in many important transferable skills such as leadership, business, public speaking, communication, and teamwork. We are developing our students into future business and STEM leaders intent to give back to and develop the communities in which they live. Through our efforts to put STEM FIRST throughout our region over the past 12 years, Torbotics has made a significant impact in the lives of over 200,000 youth and families throughout our general area and beyond.

Sincerely,

Danny Thomasson

Hammond High Magnet School

*FIRST* Robotics Teams Lead Mentor

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