



## ***Team Paragon Robotics, Inc***

### **FIRST Team Paragon 571**

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Dear Fellow Community Member,

Imagine a competition of ideas, imagination, business and engineering that instills these virtues in your future employees and colleagues. This is what **FIRST** (**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology) is all about. **FIRST** was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, entrepreneur and inventor of the Segway Human Transporter and the Independence IBOT Mobility System. Dean has been a tireless advocate for science and technology and continually works on designing accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math, while building self confidence, knowledge and life skills.

**Team Paragon** is one of the first **FIRST** Robotics teams that began in Windsor in 2001. Each year teams of high school students and engineer mentors have six weeks to brainstorm, design, build, program and test a robot to play a specified 'game' by accomplishing a multidisciplinary task. While some team members may work exclusively on the fabricating and programming the robot, other students are responsible for marketing and team image. Additionally, all students are responsible for raising the funds necessary to support the team. **FIRST** teaches many valuable skills needed for both business and engineering. Not only must the students design and build a robot, they must market the team, manage a budget and invent strategies for competition. Teams are also encouraged to help and work with other teams. This program helps shape students into not only knowledgeable engineers but innovative thinkers as well.

**Team Paragon** will be attending the **NEU FIRST Connecticut Regional** in Hartford, CT in 2012 and are working diligently to raise enough funds to attend the **2012 National Championship in St. Louis**. But for us, it is not all just about raising a budget and assembling a robot. Each year we take seriously the need to give back to our community. Our Team participated in the Food Share Turkey and \$20 Drive, Jay Cee's Christmas Tree Sales, Clover Street School playground project, OTIS United Way Volley Ball Tournament and MS Society Bike a Thon – just to name a few. Our team is always trying to get involved in the community, and have the community be involved in our robotics.

**Team Paragon's** average annual budget is over \$40,000. Our expenditures are not only robot parts and equipment but also our build location, registration and travel expenses for two regionals and several post-season competitions, as well as t-shirts and other spirit materials and various supplies needed by our sub-groups and food to feed the team. This year there will be 43 regional competitions, 1800 teams from 12 countries, over 45,000 high school students and 25,000+ mentors involved.

All of this comes from the generous contributions from our local businesses, and we very much appreciate your consideration in making a donation to **Team Paragon**. If you would like further information regarding sponsorship or a student presentation about **FIRST**, please email us at [teamparagon571@att.net](mailto:teamparagon571@att.net)

Thank you for your support!

**Team Paragon**