

Maryland high school students will be Team USA at the FIRST® Global Challenge, the “Olympics” of robotics in Mexico City from August 15-18, 2018.

For Immediate Release

Rockville, MD. May 07, 2018 -- Eleven students from the Montgomery County Public School district (FTC team Wizards.exe) will represent the United States of America at the 2018 *FIRST*® Global Challenge (FGC) from August 15-18, 2018 at the Arena Ciudad de México, Mexico City. The FGC is an “Olympics”-style robotics event where *FIRST* Global invites one team from every nation to participate in an international challenge. The goal is to foster understanding and cooperation among the youth of the world as they use their abilities to solve the world’s problems. (<https://youtu.be/rBa2dXP7g9E>). One hundred and fifty-seven countries attended last year’s FGC event in Washington, DC, and more teams are expected this year thus, making it a truly global event.

The *FIRST*® Executive Advisory Board, co-chaired by Mr. Kevin Ross and Dr. Woodie Flowers, nominated high school students from Maryland to be the 2018 *FIRST* Global Team USA. The team is comprised of five boys and six girls, aged thirteen to seventeen: Maanav Allampallam, Jyotsna Bhatnagar, Sarthak Bhatnagar, Shruti Chauhan, Raashi Dewan, Rohan Dewan, Lena Franklin, Arjun Oberoi, Ishaan Oberoi, Anika Seth, and Devasena Sitaram. The students have been involved with and supported all *FIRST* programs including *FIRST*® Lego® League Jr. (FLL Jr.), *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL), *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC), and *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC). On April 28, 2018, the students, part of FTC Team 9794 Wizards.exe, were recognized as the 2017-2018 World Championship Inspire Award winners, the top award for FTC teams.

“It’s a great honor to be ambassadors of our country at the 2018 *FIRST* Global Challenge.” said Ishaan Oberoi, team captain and a 10th grade student at Richard Montgomery High School. “We have been involved in FGC before. Last year, in addition to volunteering at the 2017 FGC event, we were advisors to the team from Palestine. This year we are helping the team from Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

“*FIRST* Global is not just about robotics.” said coach Dr. Pankaj Oberoi. “It’s about giving the next generation the opportunity to connect with people from around the world, inspire them, and share ideas across global boundaries.”

“Energy Impact” is the theme of the 2018 FGC event. In this event, the teams will explore the impact of different types of energy used and design ways to make them more sustainable. For this event, the teams will build a robot from a standardized kit of parts and compete in a pre-defined set of challenges.

The team will need approximately \$25,000 to purchase materials for the robot, registration, travel, lodging and other expenses. The team is currently looking for sponsors and donations through their website <http://fgcteamusa2018.weebly.com> or <http://gofundme.com/support-fgc-team-usa-2018>.

To learn more about the team and their accomplishments, visit their website <http://fgcteamusa2018.weebly.com> or send an email to FGCTeamUSA2018@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FGCTeamUSA2018> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FGCTeamUSA2018>



FIRST Global Mission: The *FIRST* Global mission is to inspire science and technology leadership and innovation in young people from all nations in order to increase understanding, instill the importance of cooperation, address the world's most pressing issues, and improve quality of life for all. This mission is accomplished through the *FIRST* Global Challenge, which culminates with an international robotics game that will rotate among different nations each year. By showing the youth of the world that if they communicate, cooperate, and work together using the tools of science and engineering to find solutions to the world's grand challenges – water, energy, security, medicine, food, and education – they will be able to accomplish great things and become part of a truly global community.

FIRST Global Challenge: The *FIRST* Global Challenge is an annual robotics game that will address one of the 14 Grand Challenges identified by the national engineering academies of the United States, United Kingdom, and China. Each year, a different issue of global importance will take center stage as the theme of that year's *FIRST* Global Challenge, which will be held in a different nation across the world.