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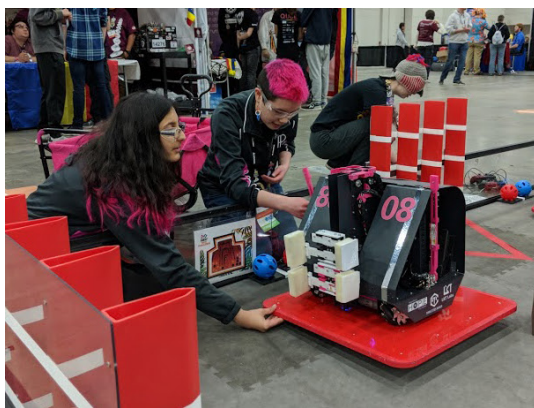
THE PONYTAIL EXPRESS



WHAT'S NEW & HAPPENING WITH THE PONYTAIL POSSE

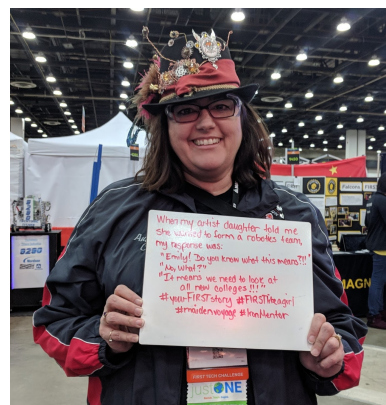
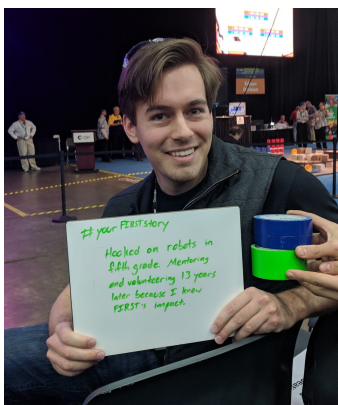
FINAL SEASON WRAP-UP

Back in April, our team had the honor of being one of ten teams to represent Minnesota at the *FIRST* World Championship in Detroit, MI. Our robot performed perfectly and we had a great time meeting teams from all over the world.



A few days before the championship began, we received an email from the *FIRST* marketing team about their new social media campaign for the upcoming event. The goal was to promote stories of individuals who were involved with *FIRST*, whether that be through competing, mentoring, or volunteering. *FIRST* asked us to help collect these perspectives as their first-ever “Social Media Street Team” and we eagerly accepted.

Over the course of the week, initiating conversations people about their enthusiasm for *FIRST* and robotics quickly became one of our favorite parts of the event. We talked with many individuals and posted their stories on our social media accounts.



You can view these stories and more on our [Instagram page](#).

THE FUTURE OF THE POSSE



2013



2018

As you may know, the 2017–18 *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) season was our final year as an active team. While it is true that the majority of us have aged out of the program and can no longer compete, the Posse will still be a part of the robotics community in other ways.

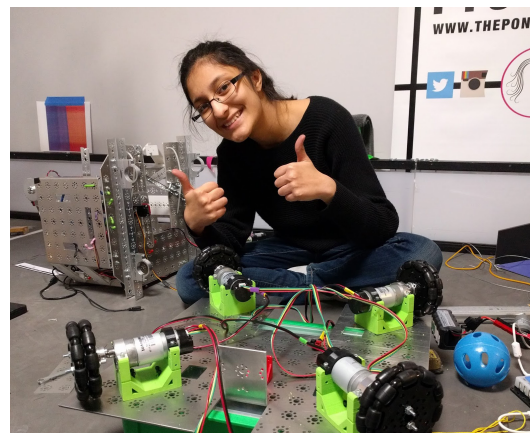
Our long-term outreach project is still going strong (we're funding 8 new and 26 previously-established elementary robotics teams for the 2018–19 school year!) and we plan to continue meeting every year until 2025 to discuss progress and our plans moving forward. Those of us who are staying in Minnesota after graduation will be mentors for our coach's brand-new FTC team, [Spontaneous Construction](#), which gives us the chance to pass on our knowledge to the next generation of robotics fanatics. In addition, each of us intend to keep volunteering at robotics events for as long as we can – hopefully for the rest of our lives!

If you're interested in reading a more personal perspective on what the Posse means to us, check out [this](#) blog post on our website or click the button below.

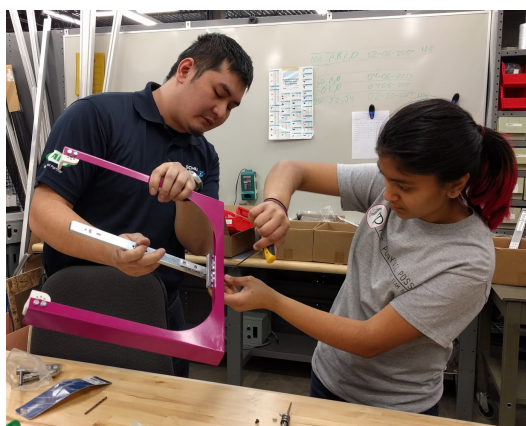
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WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE TEAM MEMBERS?

Sabriyah has moved to the east coast to attend Cornell University. She will be studying mechanical engineering and hopes to join a variety of STEM extracurriculars, including Cornell Rocketry, in which she will help her team build a rocket as part of the NASA Student Launch competition.



ABOVE: Sabriyah poses with an in-progress drivetrain prototype



ABOVE: Heeral works on a robot part with help from an engineer

Heeral has moved to the east coast to study computer science at Rutgers University. She is most excited about her Python programming and public speaking courses. She is also a member of Q-STEP, which is a program that connects science and technology majors with teaching opportunities to get local youth community excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Meghan is living on campus at the University of Minnesota, where she is studying computer science. She is looking forward to joining extracurriculars such as archery club as well as volunteering at robotics events. She is also a member of AMC-W, which advocates for women in computing fields, and she plans to mentor a local robotics team, **Titanium Allies**, throughout the upcoming season.



ABOVE: Meghan teaches programming to 3rd graders at "LEGO League Sampler" class



ABOVE: Rose encourages a young robot driver at a community outreach event

Amy is living on campus at the University of St. Thomas. She is double majoring in Entrepreneurship and Marketing and she is looking forward to joining a variety of entrepreneurship clubs on campus. She is also competing in several business plan and pitch competitions this year, including the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, which a premier award program open to college students around the world.



ABOVE: Amy (left) and Nancy (right) pose before a team judging session



ABOVE: Rose (left) and Amelie (right) sport their stylish deely-boppers while volunteering

Nancy has started her senior year at Mounds View high school. In the upcoming robotics season, she will be actively mentoring our former coach's rookie FTC team, Spontaneous Construction, and volunteering at robotics events. Now that the Posse has retired, she is excited to have time to join ultimate frisbee and possibly another extracurricular activity like speech team. She plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering after graduation.



ABOVE: Nancy shows young visitors what the robot can do



ABOVE: Charlotte (left) and Nancy (right) rewire the robot before a competition

Amelie is taking classes at both the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design this year. She is interested in pursuing degrees in digital media and math. In her free time, she works on other music and video projects, including an animated series called Wish It was Fiction.

Charlotte has started her junior year at Mounds View high school. For the 2018–19 robotics season, she will be a member of new FTC team **Anonobots** and a mentor for our former coach's new FTC team, Spontaneous Construction. She also plans to become involved with other extracurricular activities such as orchestra and National Honor Society.

THANK YOU

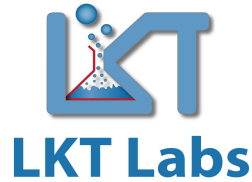
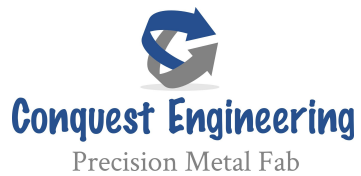
To anyone who has ever donated time, money or resources to our team: thank you. To anyone who has cheered for us at competitions, whether in person or from across the country: thank you. To our parents and family members who put up with our 16-hour pre-tournament meetings and drove us home after long nights: thank you. You are the reason that this team was possible and we will be grateful for the rest of our lives.

This is goodbye for now. Thank you for following our journey.

With love,
The Posse



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