



Inspiring Colorado's Next Generation of Science and Technology Leaders



FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

April 2016

Dear FIRST Judges,

We are writing this letter to attest to the Gracious Professionalism shown by The Highlanders (Fort Collins-team #4499).

The team played an invaluable role at the Poudre High School FLL Jr. Expo this past weekend (April 16, 2016). As soon as I sent out the call for FRC teams to support the Expo in Fort Collins, The Highlanders immediately and eagerly responded. They graciously collaborated with another FRC team on demonstrations and learning stations for the Jr. teams, showcasing true FIRST spirit.

They taught the Jr. kids about what they do in FRC and instructed the children in how to operate several of their robots. They made sure that they had time to let each and every one of the Jr. kids on all teams (and their siblings!) "drive" the robot, giving them critical and irreplaceable hands-on experience. They also engaged the kids in fun activities to not only pump up their excitement but also to demonstrate to the students how powerful the technology is; a highlight of the Expo for many kids was getting to "race the robots" across the gym! We all loved seeing the Highlanders' positive attitudes and enthusiasm both for their own STEM learning and for sharing it with the kids.

In addition to their important hands-on work with the Jr. team members, having FRC teams, like The Highlanders, participate in our Jr. Expos is indispensable, because they inspire our Jr. kids, who look up to them and see a picture of who they could be "when they grow up." They show our kids where their STEM passions can take them and open their minds to higher-level engineering. I had numerous families of the Jr. teams' members seek me out to compliment The Highlanders and express to me how exciting and invaluable they found this interaction with the FRC teams and their robots.





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We are trying to greatly expand the base of FLL Jr. teams in the Fort Collins area, so this kind of community outreach is critical. Having The Highlanders give them the inspiration to look forward to even bigger and better things is absolutely vital to the continued growth of FIRST programs and STEM learning in this area.

Sincerely,
Katherine Aschenberg
FLL Jr. Affiliate Partner Representative, ColoradoFIRST

