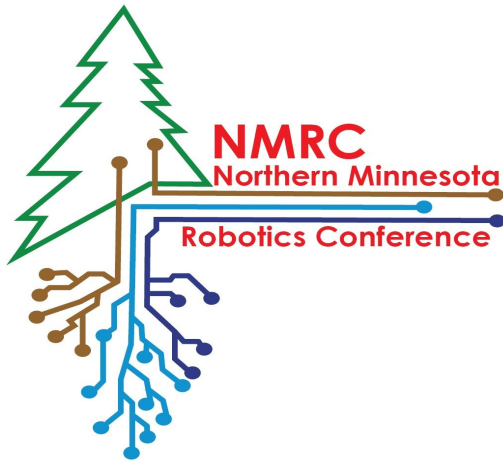


Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference



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Bemidji, MN (May 15, 2023) - The Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference (NMRC) is pleased to announce the second annual recipients of our NMRC Scholarship Program.

The NMRC strongly believes that we should not only support our students while in HS but that we should do what we can to ensure that they have life long success. We want robotics to have a lasting and positive effect that students find life changing. While we support students in many forms, we would also like to assist well deserving students from our region in a financial capacity as they pursue their passions professionally during their post-secondary education.

We are pleased to be awarding funds to support students through two primary scholarships on an annual basis. The first of these is our *General Scholarship* (\$500) which is open to any student participating in robotics from our service area. Students can pursue any career or area of interest they have during post secondary education. This could be a traditional four year institution, two year institutions such as community or technical colleges, or a (industry standard/professionally recognized) trade program or certification.

The second scholarship we award is our *General Scholarship for Under-represented Groups*. (\$500) This scholarship is guided by the same criteria as the aforementioned *General Scholarship* but exists to specifically address the needs of underrepresented groups. It is our goal to do all we can to assist students as they work towards obtaining a career that will allow them to be contributors to our vibrant communities.

This year's NMRC *General Scholarship* award winner is **Alicia Erickson**.

Abigail is a member of the robotics team at Alexandria HS, team #3313 *Mechatronics*. Alicia has plans on pursuing a degree in civil engineering or architecture.

In the essay portion of her submission she wrote about her experiences in FIRST robotics saying...

"Prior to robotics, my negative experiences...with mechanics, plumbing, electrical – really anything technical – caused me to heavily dismiss the idea of heading into any sort of technical work. However, FIRST Robotics provided me with an incredibly welcoming environment...I wasn't afraid to fail. Effortlessly, robotics introduced me to the concepts of engineering in a way that was not only engaging but extremely rewarding."

Head coach Jennie Engle, in a letter of recommendation, praised her personal attributes including her leadership ability and commitment to the team.

"...I have seen growth in many areas including: responsibility, commitment and leadership...Alicia's positive attitude is contagious and shows every day how much she is committed to making a difference within our team and FIRST robotics community."

This year's NMRC *General Scholarship for Under-represented Groups* award winner is **Caraira Jensen**.

Caraira is a member of the robotics team from Cass Lake-Bena HS, team #3134 the *Accelerators*.

In Caraira's submission essay she spoke repeatedly about the confidence she has gained and the doors that are now open to her.

"I had thought about a lot of different careers I could go into, but none stood out. Participating in robotics led me to the field of engineering. Having hands-on experience and knowledge of engineering through robotics... I know the experiences that robotics has given me I can use throughout my whole life... Being a female going into the field of engineering I know it is going to be tough, but FIRST has given me confidence in my abilities, I know I can do anything I want to..."

Cass Lake-Bena head coach Jesse Frost, in a letter of recommendation, spoke repeatedly of how Caraira contributes to the team through her leadership and the passage of knowledge from herself to others.

"Our boys' build team turns to her expertise for ideas...She sees what needs to be done, or what aspect of the game that needs to be built upon and leads the team to make those changes or learn that skill."

On behalf of all our member teams and our students the NMRC would like to congratulate these awardees. Additionally a special thanks to all of those individuals and organizations who have made contributions to the scholarship fund. If you would like to learn more about the application process or support the NMRC scholarship fund please visit the scholarship page on our website at

www.nmrconference.org/nmrc-scholarship

Respectfully,



Jesse Frost

President

Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference