

Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference



NMRConference.org

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Bemidji, MN (Nov 29, 2021) - The Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference (NMRC) is pleased to announce the launch of our new NMRC Scholarship Program. This program is available in part due to the continued partnership with Enbridge Energy through the “R2E2” (Rural Robotics Equity Endeavor) Initiative.

The NMRC’s “R2E2” Initiative is designed around inspiring and nurturing students in STEM from predominantly rural communities. The underlying connection for delivering support to students will be through their individual and team participation in the global organization of FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition in Science & Technology) robotics and locally through the NMRC (Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference).

Our Scholarship Program is one of four components of the “R2E2” Initiative and the second of these to reach full implementation. There are two more initiatives that are on track to reach their full implementation after the new year.

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. This support already comes in many forms, however we would also like to assist well deserving students from our region in a financial capacity as they pursue their passions professionally during post-secondary education.

We are pleased to be awarding \$1,000 in support to students through two primary scholarships on an annual basis. The first of these is our “General Scholarship” which is open to any student participating in robotics from our service area. They need only to complete the application process and meet the criteria laid out in the scholarship form. 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.

The second scholarship is our “General Scholarship for Under-represented Groups”. This scholarship will be guided by the same criteria as the aforementioned one but will exist to specifically address the needs of underrepresented groups. In our region these would most notably include Native American and female students, especially as it pertains to STEM careers. This scholarship however is not limited to just these two groups and additional underrepresented demographics are eligible as well. 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 a vibrant community.

The initial funding for these scholarships was done through multiple NMRC fundraising activities, general public donations, and a “Kick-Start” from Enbridge Energy. Sustained funding for this program will be the responsibility of the NMRC scholarship committee. This committee does have events and activities planned for the annual benefit of the scholarship fund. However, we will also continue to rely on the generous support of groups and individuals to maintain this wonderful program and hopefully expand the number of students and/or increase the level of financial contributions to them.

On behalf of all our member teams and our students the NMRC would like to thank Enbridge for their commitment to our students and their desire to help create opportunities for our kids. We would also like to thank those individuals who have made their 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

For more about the NMRC as a whole please visit our website at www.NMRConference.org You can learn about our teams under the “Members” tab or view all our partners under the “Partners & Volunteers” tab.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Frost". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'F'.

Jesse Frost
President
Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference