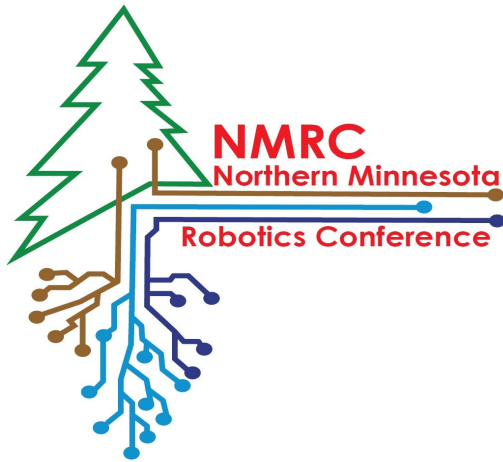


Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference



NMRConference.org

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Bemidji, MN (July 19, 2022) - The Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference (NMRC) receives a truck for a mobile robotics field and equipment to be deployed across Northern Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota.

Two years ago, thanks to our partners, the NMRC was fortunate to acquire a new trailer for mobile operations that directly supports students engaging in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) activities. This trailer has proven vital for our logistical operations in moving a wide range of equipment to schools and events around our 35,000 square mile territory.

When adding any services to an organization's capabilities new challenges are bound to emerge. In this instance, as anticipated, there was great demand for the equipment that the trailer brings. However several teams and volunteers had limited availability of vehicles at their schools that were adequate for hauling something of this size and weight safely and efficiently.

With this new need identified we once again set out to close any gap that may exist between our area students and the opportunities they deserve. After careful deliberation we determined the best way forward was for the NMRC to purchase a vehicle that could meet these demands. It would be readily available to any of our teams for deployment to a variety of STEM or robotics related events over the next several years.

As the NMRC layed out our plans to our regional supporters we were so pleased at the positive responses we got from them. We set out to raise more than \$67,000 for this initiative and anticipated that our fundraising efforts would take several months to complete. With their generous support our goal was achieved within weeks rather than months.

Our charitable financial backers for this initiative included our primary lead sponsor Enbridge Energy and our two supporting sponsors the NCVCC (North Country Vocational Cooperative Center) and SCSU's (St. Cloud State University) ETS (Environmental and Technical Studies) Department. We also received in kind contributions from Ross Lewis Sign (Bemidji) for the great artwork which adorns the vehicle. Special counsel and assistance for this project was also provided by Kenny's Goodyear Tire & Auto (Bemidji) and Diamond Buick GMC (Alexandria). Without their assistance the work we do for kids would not be possible. We ask that you join us in thanking them for all they have done to help us bring opportunities directly to our students. Thank You Sponsors!

Their assistance with this project has already been put to work this summer as the NMRC truck made its first appearance at BSU (Bemidji State University) last month. It delivered robots and equipment to a summer programming camp for High School students that was hosted on campus by the TAD Department (Technology, Art, & Design). Nearly thirty students from both Minnesota and North Dakota participated in this two day educational event.

The truck has also been deployed to the Beltrami County Fairgrounds for an educational showcase at the Beltrami County Ag Association Expo & Breakfast in June. Additionally it traveled to Minneapolis for supporting educational sessions at the national UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. During this event more than 200 youth from all over the country got their hands on robots and explored the many educational components associated with them. It even saw parade action, in its first of many, in Bemidji over the 4th of July.

In the coming weeks it will travel for educational showcases in Nevis during Muskie days, St. Cloud for the Benton County Fair, and Bemidji for Beltrami County Fair. It will also be taking its first trip out of the state as it heads to Fargo, ND for a robotics competition during a STEM Expo hosted by the Fargo-Moorhead STEM Alliance being held at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds August 20th.

As you can see this truck and trailer are definitely making the rounds and we hope that you will wave hello or stop by and visit with us at any one of the many events you might find our rig.

If you would like more information about this NMRC initiative and how you could help or other general information please visit our website at NMRConference.org or contact us via email at nmrconference@gmail.com

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Frost", written in a cursive style.

Jesse Frost
President
Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference

