

Testimony by
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Executive Director of Leadership and Major Gifts
Ohio Dominican University
St. Charles Preparatory School- FRC # 4269 Cardinalbots

In support of GRF 200597 as part of H.B. 64
“Education Program Support”

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Steve Miller – Executive Director for Leadership and Major Gifts at Ohio Dominican University and Advisory Board member of St. Charles Preparatory School and founder of the Cardinalbots Robotics team FRC #4269.

I have been on the board of the Central Ohio Robotics Initiative for the last four years and currently work in higher education as an Advancement Officer and maintain an advisory role with The St. Charles Cardinalbot robotics organization. I work in the community as a mentor for minority youth organizations including, Big Brother's & Big Sister's of Central Ohio as a member of the African American Male Advisory Council, and as a board member of the Mentoring Center of Central Ohio. I also serve as a program advisor for JOSIAH ; A mentoring organization serving minority youth 8-16 for leadership development as well as founding director of “ My Brother's Keeper”; a student organization at St. Charles Preparatory School designed to Recruit, Retain & Enrich the educational experience for minority students.

I am here in support of GRF 200597. I truly believe that this initiative can and will enhance the lives of students involved in this program. My personal experience with our robotics program has been nothing short of amazing due to the collaborative engagement that our students have received from everyone connected to the creation of this opportunity. The experiences that our students have been exposed to have been

very impactful on their capability to be a part of a learning environment that has given them the opportunity to see science and engineering come alive through robotics.

Our students have been able to learn how to problem solve and work together with each other and other teams in a spirit of Coopetition. They build a robot that performs programmed tasks, which helps them relate to many different industries and future fields of study.

The cooperation with local area schools and the support of corporate partners has been outstanding; but we need the support of additional funding so we can make sure that this education experience and opportunity is available for more students across the state; especially minority students who are not represented in the competitions like they should be because of needed funding for equipment and mentors to teach and train students on these STEM related experiences that will have a lasting effect on their lives due to the impact of the challenge and exposure to the opportunity.

I am in full support of Education Program Support for *FIRST* robotics programs in the state of Ohio, because I have seen and been a part of it transforming the lives and minds of young people that otherwise would not participate or be engaged at this level of excitement and competition.

Please give this your full consideration in support of our children.

Peace & Blessings,

Steve Miller