



THE *FIRST* DEAN'S LIST: Honoring *FIRST* Student Superstars

November 11, 2011

In an effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of *FIRST*'s most outstanding FRC students, the Kamen family sponsors an award for selected top students, aka *FIRST* superstars, known as the ***FIRST* Dean's List**.

Similar to the very prestigious National Merit Scholarship Award winners, there are three (3) "categories" of *FIRST* Dean's List Award students:

1. *FIRST* Dean's List ***Semi-Finalists*** (the group of two (2) students nominated by each FRC team);
2. *FIRST* Dean's List ***Finalists*** comprised of the two (2) students selected at each regional; six (6) students selected at the Michigan FRC State Championship; and four (4) selected at the Mid-Atlantic Robotics FRC Region Championship;
3. *FIRST* Dean's List ***Winners*** (10 students selected from the *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists by the Dean's List Committee at the FRC Championship).

Teams nominating students as *FIRST* Dean's List Semi-Finalists should note that colleges and universities are extremely interested in recruiting *FIRST* Dean's List Award students and accordingly, *FIRST* strongly urges teams to nominate a student in his or her junior year as a *FIRST* Dean's List Semi-Finalist. While *FIRST* judges will consider any student nominated by their team as a *FIRST* Dean's List Semi-Finalist, this year judges will give preference to students in their junior year when they make their selections to maximize the impact of the *FIRST* Dean's List Award for students and colleges/universities supporting *FIRST*.

The students who earn ***FIRST* Dean's List** Award status as either a Semi-Finalist, Finalist or Winner will not only be great examples of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for *FIRST* and its mission all while achieving personal technical expertise and accomplishment, but it is *FIRST*'s intention that they will continue on, post-award, as great leaders of *FIRST*'s ever growing student alumni and as advocates of *FIRST*. The *FIRST* Dean's List Award, introduced in 2010, joined the ranks of other prestigious *FIRST* awards like the *FIRST* Founder's Award which honors sponsors or other supporters who help to grow *FIRST*; the Woodie Flowers Award, which honors outstanding mentors at *FIRST*; and the Chairman's Award, which honors the teams believed to have best achieved the mission of *FIRST*.

Since its introduction in 2010, the ***FIRST* Dean's List** Award has attracted the attention of prestigious colleges and universities who desire to recruit *FIRST* Dean's List students. As *FIRST* believes such interest is beneficial to our students, those selected will be asked to provide written consent for the release and use of certain personal information, including image, to interested colleges/universities for the sole purpose of their recruitment to the institution. Prestigious colleges have expressed great interest in meeting ***FIRST* Dean's List's** Award winners and so *FIRST* hopes that each team will take advantage of the opportunity to nominate their best students as ***FIRST* Dean's List** Semi-Finalists!

The award was created during the 2010 FRC season by the Kamen family in recognition of Jack and Evelyn Kamen; parents of *FIRST* founder Dean Kamen. Jack, who passed away in August of 2008 at the age of 88, and his wife Evelyn have been fixtures at many *FIRST* events. Their

humor, along with a positive and supportive attitude, truly symbolizes the *FIRST* culture. In fact, Jack is the designer of the playful red, white and blue geometric shapes that create the *FIRST* logo which wonderfully balances the technical and emotional sides of what *FIRST* is all about. Dean's mother, Evelyn, is a tireless caretaker for her family and is an exceptional teacher, principal and tremendous *FIRST* supporter. She lends her experience as a leader of schools to chair the judge panel that selects the ***FIRST Dean's List*** Award winners which includes Debra Cain, mother of singer/entertainer Wil.i.am, Vince Wilczynski, Deputy Dean for the School of Engineering at Yale University and Ceci Neumann, a local CT attorney.

Dean's parents always encouraged his passion for innovation and his gift for motivating leaders throughout the world to support the *FIRST* mission. It is the family's hope that this Award will encourage the passion in all *FIRST* students to promote the *FIRST* mission both as a student on an FRC team and for years to come as members of the *FIRST* student alumni.

The process for competing for the ***FIRST Dean's List*** is similar to the process for the Woodie Flowers Award and the Chairman's Award in that applicants must first compete at the Regional level to be considered at the Championship level. Applicants for the ***FIRST Dean's List*** are nominated by their mentor as ***FIRST Dean's List*** Semi-Finalists. These students will be reviewed at one (1) Regional where their team is competing with two (2) ***FIRST Dean's List*** Finalists chosen at each Regional.

All *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists will be considered for the final selection of ten (10) ***FIRST Dean's List*** Award winners at the *FIRST* Championship in St. Louis.

Each FRC mentor is invited to select up to two (2) students (may select only one but not more than two) as ***FIRST Dean's List Semi-Finalists***. In deciding which students to nominate, mentors should consider the impact the award will have on the nominated student. For example, *FIRST* strongly urges mentors to choose to nominate a junior whose college acceptance prospects would be enhanced by both the nomination and any subsequent advancement in the competition. Each mentor may only submit their two (2) ***FIRST Dean's List*** Semi-Finalists to compete for the ***FIRST Dean's List*** Finalist designation at one (1) regional. Students previously selected as *FIRST* Dean's List Semifinalists or Finalists ARE eligible for nomination again this year.

Criteria for selection of the *FIRST* Dean's List shall include, but not be limited to a student's:

- demonstrated leadership and commitment to the ideals of *FIRST*;
- interest in and passion for a long term commitment to *FIRST* and its ideals;
- overall individual contribution to their team;
- technical expertise and passion;
- entrepreneurship and creativity;
- ability to motivate and lead fellow team members; and
- effectiveness at increasing awareness of *FIRST* in their school and community.

Evaluation of Semi-Finalists and Finalists will be based on a one page essay, submitted by the mentor, which best describes each student's fulfillment of the criteria. (As previously noted, Mentors can submit up to two nominations/essays per team). Although a single mentor must submit the nomination, the team as a whole must verify the accuracy of the submission. *FIRST* is relying upon the team for veracity and accuracy of the submission data.

Each entry shall be in the form attached which includes identifying information; i.e., the student's current year GPA and the GPA for each year the student has been a high school student; and an essay of not more than 4,000 characters attesting to why the student has been nominated. Essays must be submitted no later than **NOON Eastern Time on Thursday, February 16, 2012** to <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/site.lasso> A photograph or photographs of the *FIRST* Dean's List Semi-Finalist is encouraged, but optional, and the essay submission and such photos may be used, in promotion of the recipient and/or the award, at the discretion of *FIRST*. In addition to the signed consent of the release and use of certain personal information, *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists and Winners will be required to sign a *FIRST* media release to allow use of their likeness to sponsors contributing to the *FIRST* Dean's List recognition program and will be responsible for any taxes associated with federal/state prize requirements.

If a team is attending more than one regional event, the mentor must select one event at which their nominations are to be considered. Each essay must clearly state the team name, the names and grade levels of the student(s) nominated, an explanation of why the students were nominated as well as the regional event at which the nomination is to be considered. Teams participating in Michigan and Mid-Atlantic Robotics Region District events must submit their nominees at the local Championship.

At each FRC regional event, judges will select two (2) students from the ***FIRST* Dean's List** Semi-Finalist as ***FIRST* Dean's List** Finalists. The two (2) Regional ***FIRST* Dean's List** Finalists will be honored at the award ceremonies at that regional event. Six (6) ***FIRST* Dean's List** Finalists will be selected/honored at the Michigan FRC State Championship and four (4) selected/honored at the Mid-Atlantic Robotic FRC Region Championship.

All ***FIRST* Dean's List** Finalists will be considered for the ***FIRST* Dean's List** at the *FIRST* Championship in St. Louis using the essays provided. Finalist candidates need not be present at the *FIRST* Championship in order to be considered. Ten (10) Students will be selected as the ***FIRST* Dean's List Award** Winners for the 2012 FRC season.

The ten (10) 2012 ***FIRST* Dean's List** Award winners will receive the following:

- a unique trophy and public recognition at the 2012 *FIRST* Championship;
- a written recommendation from *FIRST* leadership to the college(s) or employer(s) of their choice;
- a credit towards the winning student's team 2013 registration fee;
- a commemorative plaque for the student's school Hall of Fame;
- an invitation for them, and a chaperone, to attend an expenses paid ***FIRST* Dean's List** Award Summit, at *FIRST* Headquarters in Manchester, New Hampshire; and
- the opportunity to work with all members of the *FIRST* Dean's List and *FIRST* leaders to advance the mission of *FIRST*.

GOOD LUCK!