William Hebding on FIRST Robotics: Encouraging Engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math  
  
A Vice President at Skill-Metric Machine and Tool in Delray Beach, Florida, William Hebding is a strong supporter of educational efforts such as FIRST Robotics.  
  
Encouraging young minds to engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is essential to keeping the American spirit of innovation alive. FIRST Robotics, an educational program with teams throughout the United States, helps spark the imagination of young people, and allows opportunities for students to participate in a range of science competitions.  
  
FIRST (an acronym for the phrase, “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”) offers innovative programs that expose students to diverse science projects and foster experiential learning; it aims to help students build self-confidence, as well as exercise their communication and leadership skills.   
  
Running a robotics team can be an expensive endeavor, which is why local FIRST Robotics programs rely on corporate sponsors and individual donors to help fund parts and equipment, tools, travel expenses, and other necessary items.   
  
For more information on FIRST Robotics, visit www.usfirst.org.