



FIRST® Championship Educator Summit

Featured Speakers



Mike Kurinski, Administrator, Educational Services, Compton, CA

Michael is passionate about STEM equity and bringing high-impact programs to the families of the Compton school district. Two years after being introduced to *FIRST*® when the superintendent asked him to create ten teams in Compton schools, Michael has recognized the impact of *FIRST* programs on his students, and has now implemented over 20 teams, and *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. teams have been started at seven elementary schools. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Film and Video Production from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills.



Don Beck, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Channelview ISD, Channelview, TX

Don Beck is passionate about family, education, and *FIRST*. As an educator for 15 years, Don began his career teaching math, became a high school principal, and is now an assistant superintendent. Throughout his tenure as an educator, *FIRST* has been involved every step of the way. Both he and his wife, Christy, have served as a mentor or coach and three of his children have participated in *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST*® Robotics Competition over the last eight years. Don views *FIRST* as an organization that gets kids engaged in something that is not just exciting, but inclusive.



Don Bossi, President, FIRST

As President of *FIRST*, successful technology executive Donald E. Bossi brings deep technical and management skills to the organization. Bossi, who excelled in a 20-year career with several high-technology companies, is now anxious to give back and help develop the next generation of innovators. [Read more about Don.](#)



Mark Greenlaw, Vice President of Strategy and Impact, FIRST

Mark Greenlaw is a leader in creating innovative hands-on project-based STEM learning opportunities dedicated to the idea that inspiring young people in STEM can develop the innovators of tomorrow, equipped to solve the world's most pressing challenges, while simultaneously helping to close the nation's achievement and opportunity gap. [Read more about Mark.](#)



Jamie Sachs, Director of Education, FIRST

As Director of Education at *FIRST*, Jamie Sachs leads the Education team in developing innovative learning opportunities to support *FIRST* programs. Over the course of her 25-year career in Education, Jamie has taught mathematics, engineering and robotics in the classroom and held several roles in Education Administration and Educational Technology. Prior to joining *FIRST* in 2014, Jamie was the Director of Digital Learning at New Tech Network where she led the development of project-based, online courses and digital content with a STEM focus. She also led the K-12 strategy for Southern Regional Education Board's Education Technology Cooperative where she authored the annual K-12 Virtual School Report and created the National Online Teacher of the Year Award in collaboration with iNACOL. In addition, Jamie has been the Director of Operations at a charter school network where she developed and implemented innovative K-12 blended learning programs. Jamie was also a part of the administration team that created and led Georgia Virtual School to be one of the largest and most successful state virtual schools in the country. Jamie has served on school boards and is currently the coach for *FIRST*® Tech Challenge Teams 12212 and 12213, the Spartabots.



Vinnie Rodino, Director of School Engagement, *FIRST*

As Director of School Engagement for *FIRST*, Vinnie works with school districts, department of educations, and charter school networks to develop K-12 roadmaps of *FIRST* implementation, bringing the *FIRST* experience to a greater number of students. He works with the *FIRST* education team to develop *FIRST* educator resources, curriculum and professional development training, the *FIRST* development team to find opportunities for financial and human resource support and works closely with local *FIRST* regional directors and program partners. He is committed to transforming our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.



Nancy Boyer, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation, *FIRST*

Nancy leads the research and evaluation work at *FIRST*. In this role, she works closely with external evaluation firms to assess the impact of *FIRST* programs on participating youth. Nancy also conducts studies for the organization including evaluations of program effectiveness, outcomes and new initiatives. She works closely with the *FIRST* Diversity and Inclusion Program to develop and assess new pilots and initiatives to broaden participation of underserved and underrepresented youth. Nancy has been in the research and evaluation field for over 20 years and has worked in academic settings as well as nonprofits. She received her Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania and Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Work from Boston University.



Michelle Long, Alumni Relations Manager, *FIRST*

Michelle leads Alumni Relations for *FIRST* Headquarters, including the *FIRST* Scholarship Program. She is passionate about ensuring that students find success in their lives in their chosen fields as they progress through higher education and career. Michelle holds a bachelor's degree in technical theater from Hillsdale College; and prior to joining *FIRST* worked in professional theater and as an Assistant Director of Admissions.