

THE *FIRST* DEAN'S LIST: HONORING *FIRST* STUDENT SUPERSTARS

In an effort to recognize the leadership and devotion of some of *FIRST*'s most outstanding FRC **students**, the Kamen family has announced the creation of a new award for selected top students, *FIRST* superstars, to be known as the **FIRST Dean's List**. The Kamen family expects that the students who earn *FIRST* Dean's List Award status will not only be great examples of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for *FIRST* and its mission, they will continue on, post-award, as great leaders of *FIRST*'s ever growing student **alumni**. This new award joins the ranks of the *FIRST* Founder's Award which honors sponsors or other supporters who help grow *FIRST*, the Woodie Flowers Award, which honors outstanding mentors at *FIRST*, and the Chairman's Award, which honors the team to have best achieved the mission of *FIRST*. It is anticipated that the *FIRST* Dean's List will be a nationally recognized distinction such that the designation could increase the competitiveness of college, scholarship, internship and employment applications.

This new award is created by the Kamen family in recognition of Jack and Evelyn Kamen, parents of Dean Kamen, *FIRST* founder, and all they have done to support *FIRST*. Jack Kamen, who passed away in August of 2008 at the age of 88, and his wife Evelyn have been fixtures at many *FIRST* events, and their humor, along with a positive and supportive attitude truly symbolize the *FIRST* culture. In fact, Jack is the designer of the playful geometric shapes for the *FIRST* logo which wonderfully balances the technical and emotional sides of what *FIRST* is all about. Dean's mother is a tireless caretaker for her family and others, and an exceptional teacher/principal as well as a tremendous *FIRST* supporter. This year, Evelyn will lend her great experiences as a leader of schools to chair the judge panel that selects the *FIRST* Dean's List Award winners.

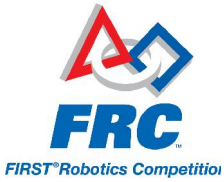
Dean Kamen's parents encouraged their son's passion for innovation, as well as his gift for motivating leaders throughout the world to support the *FIRST* mission. It is the family's hope that this new award will encourage the passion of all *FIRST* students to continue to help *FIRST* achieve its mission both as a student on a *FIRST* FRC team, and for years thereafter as members of *FIRST* student alumni.

The process for competing for the *FIRST* Dean's List shall be similar to the process for competing for the Woodie Flowers Award as well as 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 shall be selected by their team as *FIRST* Dean's List Semifinalists. These students will be reviewed at one Regional their team is competing at, with two *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists designated at each Regional. All Dean's List Finalists will be considered at the *FIRST* Championship for selection on the 2010 *FIRST* Dean's List.

Each FRC team is invited to select TWO students (and may select only one, but may not select more than two students) as ***FIRST* Dean's List Semifinalists**. Semifinalists may be selected by mentors, by the team or another method adopted by the team. In deciding which students to nominate, teams may want to consider the impact the award will have on the nominated student. For example, teams may choose to nominate a junior who would greatly benefit from the college recommendation provided to the *FIRST* Dean's List students. Each team may only enter their two *FIRST* Dean's List Semifinalists to compete for the *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists designation at one regional.

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

- 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



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- Entrepreneurship and creativity
- Ability to motivate and lead fellow team members
- Effectiveness at increasing awareness of *FIRST* in their school and community

Evaluation of Semifinalists and Finalists will be based on a one page essay, submitted by the student's team, which best describes each student's fulfillment of the criteria. (Teams are allowed to submit two nominations/essays per team).

For each student nominated as a Semifinalist, teams MUST submit one nomination essay entry in the form attached hereto. Teams may submit up to TWO nomination entries per team. Each student entry shall be in the form attached hereto, which includes identifying information as well as an essay of not more than 4000 characters attesting to why the student has been nominated. The nomination essay may be composed by any member of the team, including by the student nominated as a *FIRST* Dean's List Semifinalist, but the completed essay must be approved by the team as a whole (who collectively attest to its accuracy) prior to submission. This year, to ensure adequate time to review the essays, teams will only have only four days in which to nominate students and draft and submit an essay. Essays must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM EST on February 26th, 2010 to <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/goteams/site.lasso>. A photograph of the Dean's List Semifinalist is optional with the essay submission and such photos may be used at the *FIRST* events at the discretion of *FIRST*.

If a team is attending more than one regional event, the team 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 two students nominated, an explanation of why the students were nominated as well as the regional event at which the nomination is to be considered. The sample form for entry is set forth below.

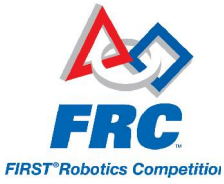
At each FRC regional event, for the 2010 competition season, Judges will select two students from the *FIRST* Dean's List Semi-Finalists as *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists. The two Regional Dean's List Finalists will be honored at the regional award ceremonies on the final day of the applicable regional event. For the 2010 FRC season, there will be no Dean's List Finalists selected at the District level. Six Dean's List Finalists will be selected at the Michigan State Championship.

All *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists (we anticipate there will be 96 *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists for the 2010 season) will be considered for the *FIRST* Dean's List at the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta using the essays provided from their nominating teams. *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists do not have to be present at the *FIRST* Championship to be considered for advancement to the *FIRST* Dean's List. This year, ten Finalists shall be selected at the *FIRST* Championship (FRC) as the *FIRST* Dean's List Award winners.

The ten Students on the 2010 *FIRST* Dean's List students will receive the following:

- A written recommendation from *FIRST* leadership to the college or employer of each student's choice.
- A credit towards the winning student's team following year registration fee
- An invitation to attend an expenses paid Leadership in Engineering Workshop in Manchester, NH.
- The opportunity to work with all members of the *FIRST* Dean's List and network with *FIRST* leaders to advance *FIRST*.

Good luck!



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SAMPLE FORM FOR TEAM NOMINATION OF STUDENT TEAM MEMBER FOR INCLUSION ON THE *FIRST* DEAN'S LIST

TEAM NUMBER: _____ STUDENT NOMINEE NAME: _____

GRADE OF STUDENT NOMINEE: _____

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON TEAM: _____

EXPLANATION IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION (Including reference to the student's: 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.