

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 19, 2018 CONTACT: Angela Quick 702-321-2446 aquick@firstinspires.org

## FIRST Nevada chosen as part of Tesla's K-12 investment in the state.

K-12 STEAM Non-Profit Teaches Students Problem Solving, Teamwork, Inspired Robot Design and Building



Photo Credit: FIRST Nevada/Mary Scodwell

**NEVADA** – <u>Tesla</u> (NYSE: TSLA) selected FIRST Nevada as a recipient of the company's K-12 Education Investment Fund in the state of Nevada. Tesla's Nevada K-12 Education Investment Fund is a \$37.5 million investment focused on initiatives that support K-12 STEM and sustainability education in the state, as part of the Nevada DoE Education Gift Fund.

There are over 500,000 FIRST students on over 60,000 teams worldwide. Students who participate in FIRST programs are 2.9 times more likely to show interest in STEM, 2.3 times more likely to be interested in a STEM career, 3.7 times more likely to be involved in STEM activity, and 2.7 times more likely to show gains in STEM understanding. In addition, FIRST participants develop work and life skills to become the innovators of tomorrow, such as improved problem solving skills, conflict resolution, cooperation, time management, and strengthened communication skills.

FIRST Nevada worked with Tesla to establish a detailed multi-year plan to provide *FIRST®* robotics programs to students throughout the state via the FIRST® LEGO® League, FIRST® Tech Challenge, and FIRST® Robotics Competition programs. Funding support will provide teacher stipends for coaching teams as well as robotics team registration fees, supplies, workshops, tools, and equipment. The multi-year funding support goal is to ensure that schools have the support in place for establishing successful and sustainable FIRST teams across all three programs in Nevada.

"FIRST Nevada is thrilled and honored to be selected by Tesla as a recipient of their K-12 educational investment in the state," said Angela Quick FIRST Nevada Regional Director. "We are truly grateful for this partnership and our aligned vision to provide accessibility to these exciting mentor-based STEAM programs and inspire the next generation of science and technology leaders."

Tesla's mission is to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy. Tesla builds not only all-electric vehicles but also infinitely scalable clean energy generation and storage products. The goal of Tesla's investment is to encourage students of all backgrounds to consider a career in STEM or sustainability, and to develop the next generation of engineers in Nevada.

## About FIRST Nevada

FIRST Nevada is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics programs and STEAM education initiatives in Nevada. FIRST = For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. With support from corporate and foundation donors, the not-for-profit organization hosts the <u>FIRST<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition</u> for students in Grades 9-12; <u>FIRST<sup>®</sup> Tech</u> <u>Challenge</u> for Grades 7-12; <u>FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League</u> for Grades 4-8; and <u>FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League Jr.</u> for Grades K-4. <u>Gracious Professionalism<sup>®</sup></u> is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about FIRST<sup>®</sup> visit <u>www.firstnevada.org</u> or <u>www.firstinspires.org</u>.

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