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Firelands FCU Donates \$3,000 to Perkins Robotics Team

NORWALK, Ohio – To continue our commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related education, Firelands Federal Credit Union (Firelands FCU) provides monetary donations to local high school robotics teams each year. Now, for the second year in a row, Firelands FCU is proud to announce our most recent donation recipient is Perkins High School's robotics team, who this year has received a donation for a total amount of \$3,000.

"At Firelands FCU, we look to sponsor groups or activities that leave a lasting impact on our local communities and school robotics teams do just that," said Nicole Jones, Firelands FCU VP Marketing. "Last year's STEM-related sponsorships for Norwalk, Bellevue, Perkins, and Monroeville were so appreciated by the schools that we knew we had to further the support again this year."

Since 2017, the Perkins High School robotics team has participated in an international high school competition where students build a custom robot to compete against over 170 teams in their district. In the few years that the team has been together, they have "grown significantly," and "not only with students but with the challenges as well," said James Gilchrist, Perkins High School robotics team mentor.

This year, in addition to that competition, the robotics team has also competed against other institutions, including MIT and CalTech, to design and build a NASA satellite. The Perkins robotics team was the only high school in the country chosen to meet this challenge and placed 11th out of 13 from NASA's selected projects. It is expected that this satellite will launch in two to three years.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, Firelands FCU staff met at Perkins High School to hear students speak about the team, share a preview of the robotics lab, demonstrate some of the past competition robots, and preview their satellite concept and design.

"The projects that these students are working on are nothing short of impressive and inspiring," said Dustin Austin, Firelands FCU AVP, Sandusky Market. "We are happy to know that our contribution will be going to help fund opportunities that prepare students for today's modern workforce and are excited to see what these students do next."

To learn about more ways Firelands FCU gives back, visit www.firelandsfcu.org.

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