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Dear Friend,

These past few weeks have been especially exciting for Illinois and the 14th District as many of our local students have achieved great things in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education activities. As Co-Chairman of the House STEM Caucus and a member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, I could not be prouder of their accomplishments and leadership abilities. Read on!

Robotics Teams Advance to Super-Regionals

Student-led robotics competitions encourage the perfect combination of teamwork, STEM knowledge, communication, grit and determination that helps our students prepare for future careers—and it's fun! Over the years I have had the privilege of watching our young students grow into team leaders and win competitions, [emceeding a competition at the World Championships in St. Louis](#) and [meeting FIRST Robotics founder Dean Kamen](#).

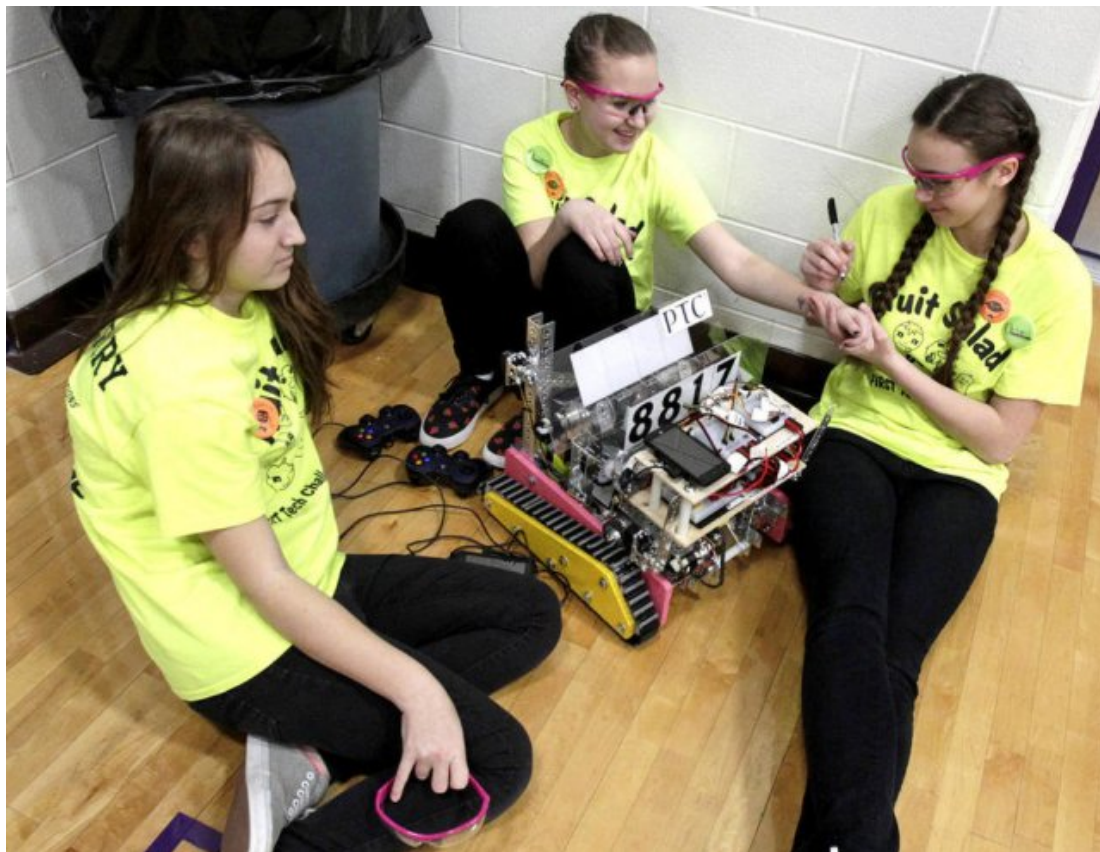
This weekend, our local teams are heading to the [Northern FIRST Tech Challenge \(FTC\) Super-Regional Tournament](#) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Fruit Salad, one of our all-girl high school robotics team from Crystal Lake [already won the first place Inspire Award](#) at the FTC Illinois Championship. They join three other teams from the 14th Congressional District competing at the tournament: got robot? (Elgin/St. Charles), Unknown Element (Batavia) and Dynamic Signals (Gurnee).

Even more exciting, five of my STEM Scholars are on three of the teams. (Learn more about my STEM Scholars program below.)

Let's go #IL14!



(Rep. Hultgren with 2015 Fruit Salad robotics team)



(Photo: Matthew Apgar, Northwest Herald)

STEM Scholars Take on Fermilab

Fermilab National Laboratory is known for high-energy physics, the Tevatron particle accelerator and discovery of the top quark subatomic

particle. Today, they lead the world in neutrino research and are on the cutting-edge of public-private partnerships and tech transfer into the marketplace.

And our #IL14 high school students took Fermilab's scientists by storm!

STEM Scholars is a [youth leadership program I launched this year to encourage highly-motivated and energetic high school students to become ambassadors in their communities](#) for the possibilities provided by science, technology, engineering and math.

So far, they've [worked alongside food flavoring professionals measuring chocolate syrup](#) to see how it mixed and tasted differently with different types of milk, [seen first-hand the partnership a local business has with NASA's Space Launch System](#) which could carry our astronauts to Mars, observed the ways in which companies like Caterpillar, Rolls-Royce and Microsoft are collaborating together with dozens of universities [in a regional hub in downtown Chicago](#), and [talked to STEM professionals about their careers](#) at a local science museum.

This meeting, the STEM Scholars and I toured several facilities including control rooms, a pre-accelerator and a mock accelerator tunnel. We met with Nigel Lockyer, Director of Fermilab, engaged with physicists in an Ask a Scientist session and used an Oculus virtual reality system to look for neutrinos, among other things.

I was inspired, and I could see the excitement on the student's faces as they realized the possibilities available to them.



(Rep. Hultgren addresses STEM Scholars at Fermilab)



(STEM Scholars engage in Fermilab education modules)

Director Lockyer tweeted a short video as I addressed the students.
[Click to view.](#)

Fermilab Science Adventures for Students_

Fermilab offers classes for children and families during the summer months of June, July and August and on Saturdays during the school year. It's a great way to inspire young people. Here's Fermilab scientist Herman White who created the summer science mainstay program:



(Click picture to watch video)

Click here for classes, dates and times:

<https://ed.fnal.gov/programs/sciadv/>

Women Of NASA To Be Immortalized — In Lego Form!_

Inspiring our young women and girls to enter STEM fields sometimes requires a look back at how their predecessors pioneered in the field. The book and recent Hollywood film *Hidden Figures* revealed the untold story and contribution African-American female mathematicians who worked at NASA made to our country's victory in the space race in the middle of the 20th century.

Now, LEGO wants to honor them. [Click here to read more.](#)



(Photo: Maia Weinstock)

Our children are tomorrow's working Americans, and we need to ensure that they are prepared in order to be successful and have every opportunity available to them. **I was thrilled that a bill I cosponsored, the [Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers \(INSPIRE\) Women Act, H.R. 321](#), was signed into law** by the President in February. It aims to inspire women and girls to consider career possibilities in math, science and aerospace through mentorships and outreach by retired NASA scientists, engineers, innovators and astronauts.

Know an Exceptional Student?

I am accepting applications for Summer 2017 internships in my Washington, D.C., Campton Hills and forthcoming McHenry office. More here: <http://hultgren.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/hultgren-accepting-intern-applications-for-summer-2017>.

If you think a student you know would be a great candidate for the STEM Scholars program during the 2017-2018 school year, please have them contact my office: IL14STEMScholars@mail.house.gov.

If you haven't already, be sure to [like my Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or [check out my YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in

Illinois.

In Your Service,



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