

This letter from Dean Steven Crouch was received by Team 1816-The Green Machine, via email.



On behalf of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology, I'd like to congratulate you and Team #1816 on your performance at the recent inaugural Minnesota FIRST Robotics Regional Competition at the University of Minnesota Williams Arena. I wish you the best as you compete in the FIRST Robotics Championship in Atlanta this month. Please share this e-mail with the team members and mentors.

When I first heard of the possibility of a regional robotics competition in Minnesota, I knew this was an event that I wanted to be hosted at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. While many of you may be familiar with Williams Arena and the Sports Pavilion because of the many great sports teams that have competed there, I was just as excited to see the many great problem-solving minds when I attended the FIRST Regional Robotics Competition.

As you know, the event is much more than a few days of competition. We hope the many long hours of work over the past few months have sparked an interest in all of the team members to consider a future career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. I am confident that many of today's greatest problems, in areas such as health care, energy and the environment, can be solved through engineering and science breakthrough ideas by the next generation.

At the University of Minnesota, the Institute of Technology is the college that offers 18 academic majors in engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. Our academic programs are among the highest-ranked programs in the country. Many of our engineering programs are involved in robotics research. In fact, some of these robots are saving lives. Our Department of Computer Science and Engineering developed a small robot that is currently being used in combat in the Middle East in search-and-rescue missions. Other robots are being developed here to help people with disabilities, improve medical procedures or explore space.

When team members are deciding on which university to attend after high school, we hope they will visit the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology and discover the many opportunities for education and research. Visit our Web site at www.it.umn.edu to find out more.

The University of Minnesota was proud to be listed among the many great companies that sponsored the Minnesota FIRST Regional Robotics Competition. Thank you, again, for your participation. We wish you the best of luck in Atlanta!

Sincerely,
Steven L. Crouch
Professor and Dean
Institute of Technology

University of Minnesota