

"Everyone has a shot, but the kids have already won. They're making new friends and have become a team. You can see lights in their eyes when they see something happen. I'm personally just thrilled to bits to be working with the engineering and scientific minds of tomorrow. And, yes, it would be nice to win." - Max Davies, engineer, Delco Electronics.

"US First is friendship. Before, I didn't know anybody on the team. We were all strangers. Then somehow we became real good friends." - Paul Grossman, student, Walnut Hills HS (Cincinnati, OH).

"US First is awesome. You learn about engineering and about working with people." - Arianne Spaccarelli, student, Walnut Hills HS (Cincinnati, OH).

"Dean Kamen has more energy and ideas than almost anybody I've ever met" - George Fisher, Chief Executive, Eastman Kodak Co.

"The kids on these teams become heroes in their schools, just like the football players. Other kids look up to them. This peer acceptance is what it takes to make them want to study science." - Gordon Brunner, Senior Vice President, Procter & Gamble.

"The thrill of the kids participating in this is just unbelievable. They're engaged. They're involved. They're thinking. They're working together as a team." - Dr. Roland Schmidt, President Emeritus, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"The message is clear-the commitment of the world's best engineers to be new role models for our nation's youth can make a difference...No other program has the potential to influence so many young minds while reinforcing the national goal of being a world leader in business and education." - Paul Allaire, Chairman & CEO, Xerox Corporation.

"I'm convinced it's the lowest cost, most effective approach to really change the attitudes of our youngsters to science and technology. We'll be continuing to do what we can to further this objective." - Gordon Brunner, Senior Vice President, Procter & Gamble.

"...For a young engineer, US First is a wonderful chance to work closely with experienced and gifted people whom we might otherwise never contact in the vast pool of the corporation." - Molly Gregas, engineer, Xerox Corporation.

"That's the thrill of working with kids. ...They ask the all important simple questions with difficult answers that make you scratch your head or raise an eyebrow." - Peter Chu, systems analyst, Xerox Corporation.

"The one thing I enjoyed most of all was that everyone's opinion was important. ... I learned that nobody is a nerd. Everybody has a special talent. They helped me seek an ability that I never knew I had." - Albert Mercado, student, Clinton HS (Clinton, MA).

"I feel that the US First program helps high school students meet new people. ...(It) isn't just for boys, but for girls also. ...Lisa Illuiano shows that women can make it in the modern world of today; she is the only woman engineer in Nypro. I hope to be the next." - Vivian Santiago, student, Clinton HS (Clinton, MA).

"They don't have enough time, information, resources, materials or money - now do it anyway. This is the real world of engineering." - Paul Mauriello, engineer, NYNEX Corporation.

"There were people who reached back for me. I feel compelled. I've got to reach back also." - Chris White, engineer, Procter & Gamble.

"It is not often that students and teachers work alongside each other, learning together. It was a fantastic experience to have a student teach me how to use a milling machine." - Sandy Smith, teacher, Harrison HS (Colorado Springs, CO).

"It's neat because it really forces the kids to think like little 'MacGuyvers.' They have to try and try again and it gives them a little more appreciation when they hop into a car." - Mark Brehmer, teacher, D.C. Everest HS (Wausau, WI).

"I don't know who benefits the most from US FIRST. The kids, the faculty, the engineers or the tradesmen. Due to time deadlines, budget constraints and the uniqueness of the problem, the group is forced by necessity to be fast and creative." - Joe Rice, manager, Delco Electronics.

"The thing that I learned most in KHS-FIRST is teamwork. In other activities, like marching band, I learn discipline. So this is really good. Where else could I learn teamwork like this?" - Jessenia Barron, student, Kokomo HS.

"Our team has reached out to more areas of Kokomo HS this year to get them involved and enlist their help. At every turn I have seen students blossom and grow when someone has the faith in them to tell them, 'You can do it!'." - Bill Ramseyer, engineer, Delco Electronics.

"Members of my administration and faculty have learned that we are not dummies in our end of the building and have gained a whole new perspective on what goes on in 'shop' classes." - Jack Davidson, technology teacher, Kokomo HS.

"The future of our country and our company are based fundamentally on our leaders of tomorrow. The US FIRST program is one of the few things in my life where we could reach out and touch our future, mold our leaders and drive toward one vision ... all by working with our young adult partners. US FIRST was and is one of the most enjoyable and exhilarating programs I have ever been associated with." - Ralph Wilhelm, Chief Engineer, DE Asia/Pacific.