

# Rocky Mountain BEST Teacher-Mentor+ Testimonials



- *"BEST Robotics can be life altering for kids. Hard work and self-discipline mixed with ingenuity and intellectual stimulus is an Engineering Design Process for building great 21st century achievers.". 2015,2016,2017 Regionals - SoCo GRRT Coach, Jo Ahlm*
- *"Thanks so much for letting us keep the robot for this long! I was able to convince our Board of Education that this should be a class and was able to secure funding for an additional teacher for our department. The robot helped with this!!!"  
Diane Freehling, teacher, Valley HS, Gilcrest, CO*
- *"Seeing the change in students going from uninformed to informed after Kickoff event" - Ameet Patel- Aurora Quest K-8*
- *"BEST was one of my first experiences with robotics competition and I had a ton of fun while doing it... Your competition opened many doors for me and widened my horizons on what I can do in Robotics." Dylan, Thomas Jefferson HS, Denver, CO*
- *DSST Byers has competed in BEST for the last 3 years and it has become a core element of our robotics program. Unlike most other competitions we believe that BEST challenges our students across multiple disciplines including design, manufacture, marketing and sales, all skills that will be needed in future professional lives. The competition itself drives the greatest amount of creativity in strategy and problem solving with multiple tasks that need to be met with limited resource materials and at nominal cost. The students embrace these challenges, overcome them and at the same time have fun combined with the excitement of competition. Andrew*
- *Participation in BEST robotics competitions has been a genuinely inspiring experience for kids in SMA's (St. Mary's Academy) middle school and high school robotics programs. The opportunity to apply STEM concepts lends authenticity and meaningful application to what kids learn academically, and this happens again and again in preparation for and participation in BEST competitions. The implicit equity built into BEST through it's no-cost approach genuinely opens doors to the world of science and engineering to anyone willing to take six weeks to take on a BEST challenge. Dave G*

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- *What do you get when you take fifteen troubled adolescent males with little to none experience in robotics, and then set them off for six weeks with two tubs of materials to make a functioning robot for competition purposes? You get chaos. You get distrust, anger, and bickering- but what else? For us, we developed the beginning threads of trust, some inside jokes, and reconciliation. We also got an absolute juggernaut robot that blew everyone away- including its creators. - Cassidy R.*
- *Since I've been on the Rambotics team, I have learned a lot of things you couldn't learn in a classroom or sport setting. Some of these things include how to build a robot out of a select amount of materials, team building skills, how to use math and science in a fun way, and how to be in a business like situation and still have fun at the same time. We did team building exercises together, we used problem solving skills to help us, and the whole team worked as one and got a 1st place winning robot made. - Dustin S.*
- *"Awesome Program" - David Garcia, Jr. - mentor of Holy Trinity School and Bishop Machebeuf HS teams*
- *I worked my hardest for six weeks building a robot, I got my butt kicked competing with it and lost, and I am a happy man because now I feel actually qualified to build another one! - T. Garcia*
- *Thank you so much for all you do! I'm so amazed at how much this challenge has affected my students! - JC Clark, Bishop Machebeuf*
- *We are giving vision to young men and women, they may not be able to find otherwise, that will take them places they would not be able to go without this experience. I am proud to serve with you, investing in the hope of our future. Jon Barber, Co Pit Boss*
- *Thank you so much for your service and dedication to the BEST Robotics organization. You are an instrumental part of this organization that is making a difference in young men and women's lives. I know that this program made a significant impact on several of our students who are now seeking a career in engineering because of the experience they had in the BEST Robotics competition. Thanks for the support and dedication to the kids in our community and for promoting BEST. Tom Spicer, Valor Christian HS*