

# North Texas students win top honors in international robotics competition

The community-based group 8565 Technibots represented Team USA in the FIRST Global Challenge, earning a slew of awards partly owed to their creation of a robot that collects plastic waste from the ocean.

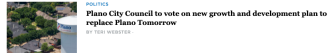


Members of the award-winning Team USA that competed in the 2021 FIRST Global Challenge included (from left to right) Champions Fu (Lubbock) High School in Texas, Steve Kim (Coppell) High School in Texas, David (Dallas) High School in Texas, Anthony Wang (Plano) High School in Texas, Henry School of Science in Dallas, Steve C. Meyer High School in Texas, and other members of the team.

By Teri Webster  
5:18 PM on Nov 3, 2021

A community group of North Texas students recently became the first U.S. team to win the top award in the history of FIRST Global, an international robotics competition that began in 2007, according to an announcement by organizers.

The students are part of 8565 Technibots, which represented Team USA in the competition. FIRST Global is a nonprofit charity that hosts an Olympics-style, international robotics competition in a different country each year. Participating teams complete three challenges over a 12-week period and design projects that include solving world problems.



Part of the team's work involved designing the "Plastic Pirate," a robot that collects plastic waste from the ocean's surface.

- Team USA received the following awards:
- Grand prize of the tournament, the Global Discover and Recover Award, with partner Team Zimbabwe, as the overall winning alliance.
- Gold medal for the Global Grand Challenge Award in Environment category.

The team included students from Plano ISD and Frisco ISD, community groups, and other school districts.

Fang Wang, a senior software engineer with IBM Watson Health and Pwot Co of Amazon served as Team USA coaches.

In addition to their competitions, the team participates in community outreach work. Using their resources and robotics knowledge, the team in 2020 donated more than 2,000 face shields and 3,700 ear guards to over an area hospitals and clinics.

Information about the Technibots is available online, as is more information about FIRST Global.



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