

Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School
215 Fitchburg Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cindy Zomar
(508) 485-9430, ext. 1250
pr@assabet.org

**Assabet Valley RTHS Robotics Team Chosen by
Staples Associate to Receive \$5,000 Grant**

Area. The Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School FIRST Robotics team, the AZTECHS, has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., under a program that lets Staples associates direct donations.

“We run the robotics program on sponsorships instead of school funds, so this grant from Staples will go a long way when it comes to event registrations and purchase of raw materials. The team is really excited to be sponsored by Staples,” announced Marcus Fletcher, the Project Manager (and 1999 graduate of the school and robotics team).

This grant is part of a philanthropic initiative created by Staples Foundation which allows Staples associates around the world to direct funding to non-profit organizations that are focused on education or job skills. The program, called 2 Million and Change, encourages local community engagement by awarding larger grants to organizations where associates are highly engaged in volunteering or fundraising – up to \$25,000 per organization.

In 2014, Staples awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants to 1,056 local organizations in support of education and job skills programs, including tutoring for pediatric cancer patients, job skills development for individuals with disabilities, school supplies, mentoring and more.

“Staples Foundation is committed to encouraging associates around the globe to make a difference in their local communities and through 2 Million and Change we enable them to directly support the programs where they personally see the greatest need,” said Katy Dobbs, director of global community and giving for Staples, Inc.

About FIRST Robotics

FIRST robotics is the brainchild of renowned inventor, Dean Kamen, encouraging high school students to think outside the box and challenge themselves in the STEM fields. Each January he releases a new game and students and mentors then have just six weeks to conceptualize, design, build, test and learn to drive a 120 pound remote-controlled robot that can do the specific tasks in a two minute match in a competitive setting. Assabet Valley has been a competing member of FIRST since 1993, and this year's team won both the Judges' Award (in Nashua, NH) and the Excellence in Engineering Award (in Smithfield, Rhode Island). The team will also compete at an event called Battlecry@WPI in May.

About Staples Community and Giving

Staples contributes to educational and job-related community efforts with a primary focus on disadvantaged youth, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community and giving efforts, Staples and Staples Foundation have helped more than 7,000 organizations in 26 countries. For more information, visit www.staples.com/community.

Cutline: The AZTECHS 157 seniors celebrate at the Granite State Regional event in Nashua, NH. Left to right, Liz Lowe, West Boylston, Patrick Hughes, Clinton, Zak Supernor, Hudson, Kayleigh Stevens, Shrewsbury, Ava Rule, Marlborough, Teju Nareddy (an AMSA student from Grafton), and Gianna Ferrecchia, from Berlin.