

# 2023-2024 Impact Report



# ABOUT US

**The mission of ADROIT** is to connect diverse communities and provide every student with the practical, emotional, and critical intelligence necessary to prepare them for future industries, ensure a lifetime of success, and positively impact their communities.



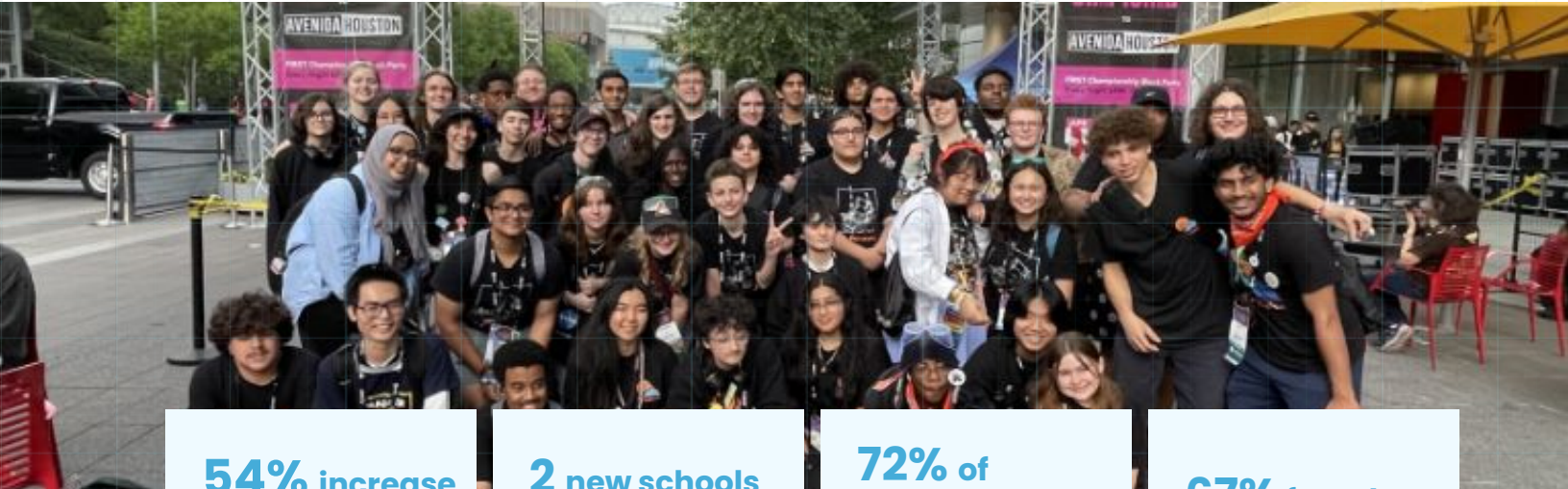
To accomplish this, ADROIT provides K-12 students with access to professional STEM mentorship, opportunities, and challenges by directly engaging them in work-based learning alongside professional mentors through a curriculum based in the FIRST Robotics program – which models industry standards and community stewardship

– and facilitating the connection between graduates and community stakeholders, including corporations, non-profits, and governmental entities.

Below is our Impact and Equity Report for 2024 – providing our outreach data and future plans for ADROIT’s robotics program, FRC Team 7525 The Pioneers.

# RECRUITMENT OF THE TEAM

Within the 2023–2024 school year, the team recruited from a multitude of communities within Nashville. Due to the span of where our students came from and the populations our mentors originated from, we acquired:



**54% increase**  
in general  
student  
participation

**2 new schools**  
contributing to  
the student  
base

**72% of**  
students are  
**BIPOC** (*Black,  
Indigenous, and  
People of Color*)

**67% female**  
student  
leadership

This year, we have students joining the team from Valor Collegiate Academy and John Overton High School, bringing the team up to six schools. Additionally, the team has moved its workshop and meeting space to Martin Luther King Jr. High School, further integrating with Metro Nashville Public Schools and increasing accessibility for students from across middle Tennessee.

## COST TO RUN A TEAM

Due to your generosity, we were able to take 43 students to regional competitions in Arkansas and Ohio and the World Championship in Houston, Texas – putting little to no cost on them to travel with us. By the end of the season, through our final survey mentioned at the end of this report, we were made aware that 25% of students would've been unable to compete had our structure of no-cost participation not existed for them. An expense report can also be provided if requested.






## WHAT MAKES AN ADROIT PROGRAM DIFFERENT

This year, we have continued providing a safe space to students to be able to explore STEM and business concepts, providing access to laptops, internet, and mentorship at a moment's notice. ADROIT programs focus on meeting students where they're at; in addition to hands-on learning, mentors help students with their interpersonal skills, leadership, and even provide college counseling for seniors.

Alongside working to get students involved in their community through impact and outreach events, the team provides students with technical skills training, summer programs, and more. ADROIT and The Pioneers create opportunities for students to work with those around them through public policy engagement, activism, and volunteering.

Finally, students have a chance to become mentors of their own. Because ADROIT oversees STEM education and robotics initiatives across all age groups, high school students step up to coach elementary and middle school teams in their community, both building their own leadership talent and bolstering future generations of The Pioneers.



**Q: If you had one word, how would you describe the impact that *FIRST* Robotics and Team 7525 have had on you?**

***"FIRST Robotics is **empowering**. I want to be a part of the team's growth and be passionate about what we do and the change we can make."***



# 11,000+

individuals impacted by  
community outreach events





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This year, ADROIT has expanded with three *FIRST* Lego League teams in Aventura Community School, a K-8 Spanish/English bilingual school that prioritizes hands-on learning. Each week, high school students from The Pioneers work with Aventura parents and community members to bring engaging, creative STEM education to 1st-5th graders from communities traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering fields. ADROIT continues this outreach through volunteer work with the Adventure Science Center, supporting Lego League qualifier tournaments and family STEM nights. Additionally, The Pioneers host community events that showcase the intersection of science and art, highlighting local artists who create STEM-inspired visuals and music.

**For 2024 and beyond, we are actively expanding our STEM impact through community outreach, growing our number of enrolled students, and identifying new partners. Currently, we are preparing to launch a second FRC Team, host a *FIRST Lego League Tournament*, and support local *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams. Additionally, we are looking at organizing training events and curriculum to share with the community and help other burgeoning STEM programs emerge.**

Furthermore, The Pioneers have worked with the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, assisting local community members by packing meals for those affected by tornados. The team also spent the summer assisting with the Special Olympics Summer games, helping set up booths and create an empowering experience for all participants.



# HOW DO WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT?

**First**, by running a curriculum through *FIRST* robotics, we are able to gauge student progress through our competition results. During the students' first regional in Arkansas, they placed as 2nd seed captain and received the Autonomous Award for their fully autonomous driving and scoring sequences. At the Buckeye Regional, they were the 3rd overall pick and were awarded the Engineering Inspiration Award, qualifying the team for the World Championship in Houston, Texas. The award recognized the team and ADROIT for their hard work promoting STEM education and accessibility, and was accompanied by NASA support to attend the championship.

**Second**, in closing the competition season, we released our yearly End-of-Season survey, which gave us the following results:

<b>70%</b>	of students felt they made a tangible accomplishment.
<b>70%</b>	of students felt empowered to overcome other academic or competitive obstacles in their life.
<b>97%</b>	of students are interested in obtaining a post-secondary education.
<b>92%</b>	of students are interested in STEM or a STEM career in the future.
<b>81%</b>	of students felt connected to the greater Nashville community.
<b>61%</b>	of students felt that this team has increased either their technical knowledge or social/teamwork skills.
<b>100%</b>	of students would recommend participation in <i>FIRST</i> and in ADROIT's Team 7525 to their friends and loved ones.
<b>100%</b>	of students feel mentally and physically safe and welcomed within Team 7525 this season.

*These surveys allow us to build historical data, track long-term alumni progress, and ensure our programs have a meaningful impact on students' lives.*



# WHAT DOES OUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE

**Optimistic about the future – we have identified three primary strategic priorities for 2024 and 2025, as we develop our outreach strategy, transition away from reliance on our school partners, and see several mentors transitioning onto new chapters.**

- 1. Marketing:** In reflection, ADROIT has not placed a heavy emphasis on promoting social media and other marketing campaigns. Instead, it has traditionally relied on word of mouth alone to grow its programs in fear of overgrowth, diminishing the quality of its programs. However, with expanding resources, enrollees, and mentors, ADROIT looks to enhance its online presence through a digital marketing blitz on Instagram, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. Additionally, the organization will promote internal communication and contribution through a short periodic newsletter.
- 2. Financial Development:** During 2023, ADROIT raised approximately \$45,000 for its programs, doubling its annual budget for the 2024 season. The organization intends to continue this growth by adding Board of Directors with partner organizations, engaging community foundations, applying to corporate grants, soliciting internal familial and PTO support, and enacting a minimum hourly fundraising requirement.
- 3. Recruiting:** During the 2023 season, ADROIT provided direct programming and education to 75 students through the volunteer efforts of 13 mentors. The organization hopes to greatly expand these numbers for students and mentors by launching a digital media blitz, leveraging school relationships, conducting outreach to professional organizations, such as the Society of Women Engineers, and creating more volunteer opportunities that allow for more casual community engagement and construct a road from part-time to full-time mentorship.