



# HIGH TECH KIDS

BUILD. CREATE. THRIVE.™

## 2009/10 Smart Move Volunteer Awards

### High Tech Kids' Special Volunteer Award

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<b>Comments</b>	<p>Mark Russo has been involved as an emcee from Crosswinds Arts and Science school in Woodbury. He knows how to whip the crowd into a truly celebratory frenzy and is one of the best emcees we have the honor to work with. Mark is finalizing his masters thesis, "Higher Order Thinking Skills in Inquiry Based Science Classrooms." From a true science fan, he wanted to convey his thanks and congratulate all of you on being here today.</p> <p>Mike Klemm has been judging since at least 2001 and in the early days of emails he maintained our email lists of volunteers for many years. He coordinated judges training and comment/scoring materials. Without his support we would have had no way of bothering, I mean communicating, with our volunteers. As with all good volunteers, they are always doing something. Mike judged here this morning and now is in the heat of a Pinewood Derby with his son. He also conveys his appreciation for this award.</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Mark Russo and Mike Klemm

## ***Coaches Award***

This award is given to someone who has shown extraordinary leadership in the coaching ranks. Someone who has had great influence on their team members, on other coaches, and on their community.

<b>Comments</b>	<p>The coaches' award this year goes to two coaches from Leonardo's Basement. Each year the tirelessly coach and mentor multiple teams. They encourage the kids to do the work themselves and enthusiastically support the risk kids take with creative solutions to the problems.</p> <p>Their creativity and focus on child-centered teamwork makes me very happy to give this year's award to two well-deserved coaches...</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Sue Evans, Kathy Bishop from Leonardo's Basement

## ***Community Volunteer Award***

Across MN there are some communities that embrace FLL with a fervor. Usually there is a local leader making this community come alive.

<b>Comments:</b>	<p>Toni began a robotics program in northern Minnesota 4 years ago. She was adamant to start their own regional tournament in 2006 and has grown this to a 16 team tournament. She hosts coaches trainings, has spoken on "How to Start a Lego Team in the Middle of Nowhere" at a national conference, and continues to support many kids and coaches, that we can't reach. From summer camps, to local grants that buy robots, and so much more. Toni has developed a great model we know will help other communities develop FLL.</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Toni Wilcox

## ***Officials' Award***

This award is given to someone who has shown significant and long term leadership in officiating MN FLL events.

<b>Comments</b>	<p>These two long time officials personify what makes a great official: Someone who is conscientious about the subject, studies it beforehand, works to improve their judging and the judging of those around them, and most importantly, works hard with each and every team in a friendly but inquisitive and questioning manner.</p> <p>In 2000, I was the tournament director for the first regional tournament in Minnesota. Last week I looked on my volunteer list and these 2 officials were both there, at Central High School in St. Paul.</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Andy Beger and Don Krantz

## ***Tournament Director Award***

This award is given to a person who has shown long term commitment to organizing and running FLL tournaments.

<b>Comments</b>	<p>These two winners are St. Paul teachers at Mays Magnet and have a long time association with FLL as coaches. In their "spare" time they also contribute significantly as regional tournament directors. And if that isn't enough, their school and classrooms are host to multiple training events each season to help coaches, judges, and referees learn what FLL is all about. We thank them for their dedication and their vital role in the St. Paul community.</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Vergene Downs and Colleen Fridlund

## Leadership Award

High Tech Kids only works because of the huge amount of work put in by key volunteers. This award is given to someone who has been a vital part of overall High Tech Kids' operations.

<b>Comments</b>	This recipient "schedules" our 300+ teams into 11 tournaments every year, creates the spreadsheets we all need glasses to read, and does it with a smile. He coordinates the computer volunteers and gets things planned for each weekend of tournaments, even if it means chipping ice away from a storage unit, 3 times, on 3 occasions, before getting inside. We could not do this without him.
<b>Award Winner</b>	Jon Schewe

## Young Mentor Award

The Young Mentor award is presented to the outstanding young mentor of a Lego League team. The award is open to students 18 and under, who reach out to the community and help other teams. Judges are looking for evidence of an effective mentoring "style", skills in transmitting and fostering cognitive and social skills, emotional growth and support. The winner also receives a \$250 college scholarship from High Tech Kids.

<b>Young Mentor</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	Geoffrey Bissen    Kevin Riehm Michael Schuh    Riley Mangan
<b>Winner</b>	Riley Mangan
<b>Quote about winner</b>	<p>The judges had an incredibly strong list of candidates for this award, making the selection extremely difficult.</p> <p>Among our candidates were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a mentor who provided another level of leadership between the team members and the coaches</li> <li>• A mentor who didn't let distance get in the way</li> <li>• A mentor who helped managed team resources and guided the team in their problem solving by asking questions</li> <li>• A mentor who worked with two teams and helped them with guidance in building, programming and research</li> <li>• A mentor who's lucky had turn on not only the teams robot, but the team members minds</li> </ul> <p>In the end, we could only pick one...</p> <p>Riley is being recognized for her ability to know where help is needed. She allowed the teams to embrace their successes as well ad their failures. She's a gifted leader who communicates will with both the team and adults.</p>

