



# **In support of SB 894: CTE credit for technology-based competitive student activities**

Presentation to the Senate Education Committee

Feb. 3, 2025

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# Elevating Robotics above “club”



- **Robotics has a range of designations across Oregon**
  - From an official class (Catlin Gabel) to club status in Corvallis (CVHS & CHS)
  - Although school-sponsored, the “club status” in Corvallis translates to “same support for formal *FIRST*® robotics as for the informal chess club”
  - As a club, CV Robotics does not have seat at the table for conversations about shop access or use of tools.
- **Dialog and attempted remedies**
  - Over 11 years, dialog with 2 principals, 3 school board members and the school superintendent of schools
    - Principal McKee: 0 credit 9<sup>th</sup> period class
    - Superintendent Noss: OSAA designation
  - Now discussing state-wide elevation to CTE

# SB-894: CTE credit for technology-based competitive student activities



- **Impact on Oregon: Educational & Economic**
  - (CV Robotics) In 2023-24, 64 team members, 100% graduation rate.
  - (all Oregon) Job relevant skills for college-bound and non-college bound alike.
  - (all Oregon) Experience in high tech entrepreneurship: technical skills, innovation, team work, fund raising, ...
- **CTE status can benefit hundreds of teams across Oregon**
  - Competitive *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> robotics in high school, middle school and elementary
- **Requests & Associated (Direct) Costs**
  - School bus rides to competitions
  - Access to existing rooms & tools (typically after hours)
  - Ability for independent teams (4H and other) to apply for educational grants.



Backup slides.

# US Patent to CV Robotics



A multi-year *summer* robotics activity led to an operational harvester and a US patent to high school students

Duncan Freeman - CVHS 2018

Abraham Mes - CVHS 2018

Genevieve Nelson - CVHS 2018

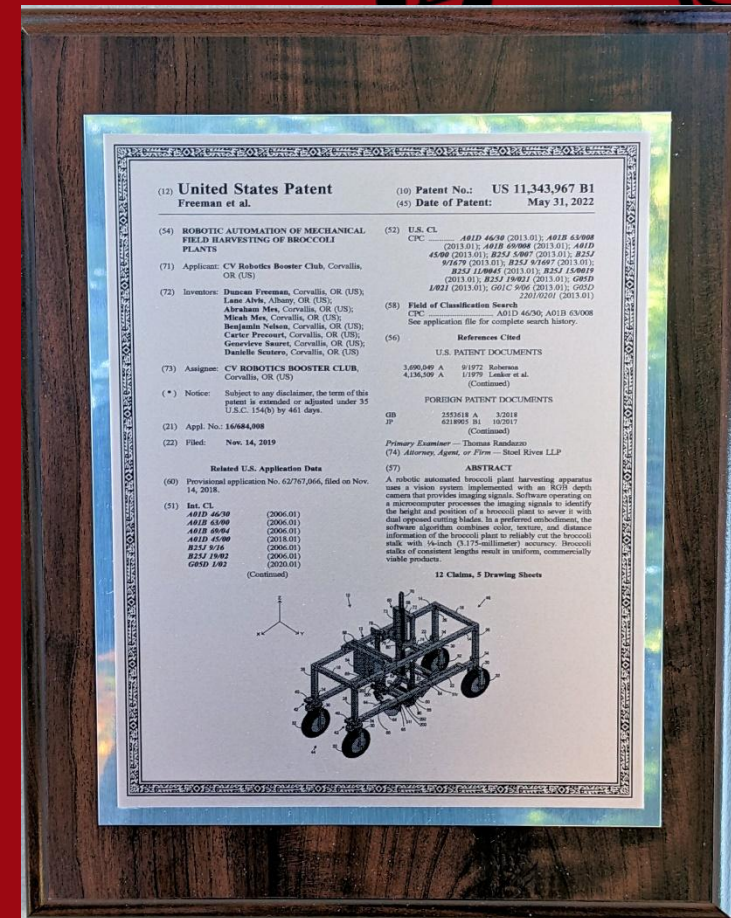
Micah Mes - Santiam Christian 2020

Mae Evans - CVHS 2020

Genevieve Sauret - CVHS 2019

Danielle Scutero - CVHS 2020

Carter Precourt - CVHS 2020

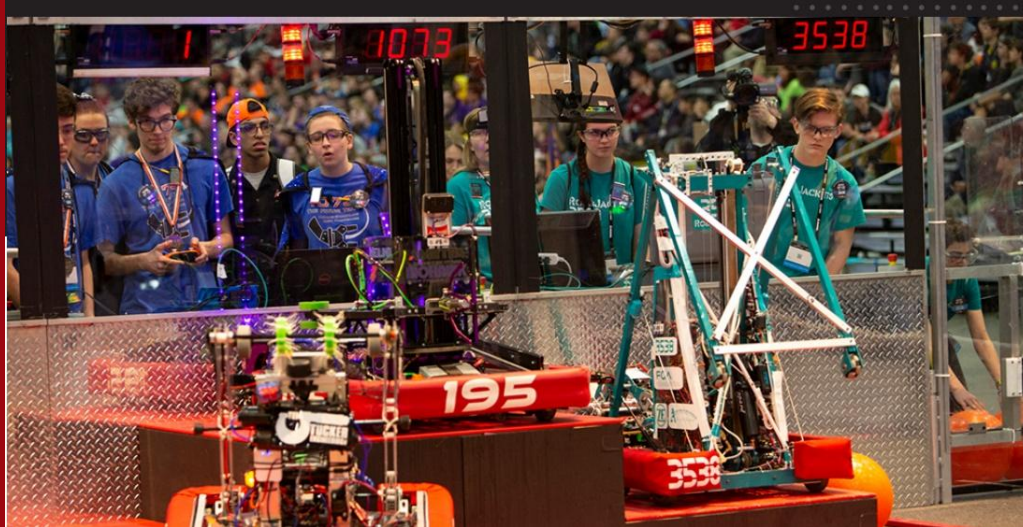


**US Patent US 11,343,967 B1**

Robotic Automation of Mechanical Field Harvesting of Broccoli Plants

[https://santiammes.com/corvallis/news/local/education/crescent-valley-alums-invented-a-robot-to-harvest-difficult-crop/article\\_432d1e48-2cac-5d82-a114-788f03a78b7e.html](https://santiammes.com/corvallis/news/local/education/crescent-valley-alums-invented-a-robot-to-harvest-difficult-crop/article_432d1e48-2cac-5d82-a114-788f03a78b7e.html)

# FIRST Robotics Competition



For Inspiration and Recognition of  
Science and Technology

**In 2025, over 10,000 high school teams worldwide. 40 FRC teams in Oregon**

**Distilling what sports had done right into a recipe for engaging young people in STEM \***

"It's after school, not in school. It's aspirational, not required".

"You don't get quizzes and tests; you go to competitions and get trophies and letters. You don't have teachers; you have coaches".

"Most of all, it is a nonjudgmental space, where in contrast, science and math in traditional educational settings had been soured with embarrassment and uncertainty."