

Freeport High School 2020 – 2021

ACCEL Recap

This year the funds from the grant was used to teach in-depth concepts on drone and drone technology. We chose Parrot Mambo Minidrones because it was the one required for competition. REC Foundation Aerial Drones (RAD) was the perfect choice this project, we used their curriculum and the drones in class as well as for after-school and weekend events. It offered the high school students at Freeport High School an opportunity to get hands-on experience in STEM education in the form of an affordable, fast-paced game. Students learned to safely operate a drone, work as a team, and research workforce applications of aerial robotic technology. By the end of the year students had a better understanding of drones and how they are used in our society today.



To prepare for competitions we had requested that the county buy into our plans by providing us with drones for the competition. The drones at that time were selling for about \$150 each. The Walton County School District Career Technology Education department bought 3 drones and some additional supplies. We used the grant that you graciously provided to buy additional drones. We had two robotics classes with 24 students so 3 drones were not going to be enough to teach a unit of drone flying and usage. We bought additional drones from different sources and ended up with 9 Parrot Mambo Minidrones. Some of the funds was used to buy additional support materials for the drones as well as training devices for the students to better prepare for the competition.

We attended several local competitions, but the best experience was a trip to Apopka High School where we competed in RECF's RAD Drown Draft competition. Some of the funds from the grant was used to support students that could not afford to travel due to the fact we had to stay overnight. Additionally, REC Foundation requires that teams be registered with Robot Events and that was \$150 per team. We also had a charge for the actual competition site. We



traveled to Apopka, Florida, to compete and the students were prepared due to the support from your organization. In the competition we placed third in programming drones to fly a course autonomously, in the individual team competition we were undefeated and

placed first. Finally, the last phase of the competition was team competition and we placed second. All in all, this was a great experience for the students.

We at Freeport High School are very appreciative for the opportunities that your grant has provided to those students in our robotics department. Additionally, the money spent will continue to aid the students of the future since drone technology is here to stay. The knowledge the students acquire for this investment will be a lasting influence on their life.

Gary D. Driver

Freeport High School

Robotics Education