

The Rainbow STEM Alliance, inc.
1900 E. North Street
Kokomo, Indiana 46901



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Questions, contact directors@therainbowstemalliance.org

ANDYMARK AND RAINBOW STEM ALLIANCE ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION FOR LGBTQ+ OF FIRST PINS

KOKOMO, IN (Jan 13, 2019) -- AndyMark, Inc. and The Rainbow STEM Alliance, inc. are proud to announce their collaborative effort to expand diversity within the *FIRST* Robotics world.

AndyMark has agreed to be the Official Distributor of LGBTQ+ of *FIRST* pins as a fundraiser for the Rainbow STEM Alliance and to allow for a larger distribution of LGBTQ+ of *FIRST* Pins. These small enamel pins were first created three years ago to spread awareness and acceptance for LGBTQ+ of *FIRST*, an international group created by and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning student participants in *FIRST* K-12 Robotics programs. Under this new agreement, AndyMark will have LGBTQ+ Pins available in their online store for \$5, with the net proceeds going back to The Rainbow STEM Alliance (AndyMark p/n am-4030).

"I wanted to create more of these pins to support the students, but it became unsustainable," said Tom Wexler, Treasurer of the Rainbow STEM Alliance, a non-profit corporation founded in 2018 to support LGBTQ+ students in educational science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs. "We want to give these pins out for free, but it costs money to produce and ship them to students across the globe."

In the past, LGBTQ+ of *FIRST* Pins were only available to Partner Teams and Staff of the student group. This created a challenge for people who wanted these pins to show support for students but had no means to get to an event. Andy Baker, President of AndyMark Inc., helped come up with this solution which will get these supportive pins to more people than ever.

The Rainbow STEM Alliance has been fundraising through their GoFundMe campaign linked below, to raise enough money to purchase more LGBTQ+ of *FIRST* pins. This new approach helps diversify funding streams for this new organization and help it continue to grow.

The Rainbow STEM Alliance would like to thank Andy Baker and everyone at AndyMark, for their continued support of their mission.

<https://www.gofundme.com/support-the-rainbow-stem-alliance>

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The mission of The Rainbow STEM Alliance, inc. (The RSA) is to promote acceptance and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, etc. youth within the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics educational fields. The RSA was founded in 2018 by three alumni and volunteers of *FIRST*, an organization that plans and hosts robotics competitions for young students. The founders saw through the students involved that there is a need to help and support LGBTQ+ youth competing on teams. The RSA's initial focus will be to support LGBTQ+ youth in the *FIRST* Progression of Programs, with goals to expand to other STEM Education programs in the near future.

For more information visit therainbowstemalliance.org

AndyMark develops, manufactures, and distributes mechanical and electrical parts for the mobile and competitive robotics market, with a focus on robotics education. The AndyMark staff strives to support the *FIRST* Community and the robotics education market by developing and distributing important components to robot builders and for mobile robotics. AndyMark's staff has over 200 years of *FIRST* team experience, and provides staffing services to many robot competition events throughout the year. Their Kokomo, Indiana home provides a central location for quick distribution across North America, as well as international shipping to over 70 countries.

For more information visit andymark.com