

**Success Story:**  
***A Nine Year Old Who Spoke No English  
Becomes a Daniels Scholar***



**Background on the WIRED grant:**

Denver Public Schools' program, Building Colorado's Talent Pipeline to Aerospace and Technology, is funded by a grant from the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative. The goal of the program is to recruit, train and funnel students to fill the employment needs of aerospace, information technology-software and other high-tech industries.

Building Colorado's Talent Pipeline to Aerospace and Technology is centered on the FIRST Robotics program and competitions at seven DPS high schools. FIRST Robotics is designed to help high-school students discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be by challenging teams of students and their mentors to solve a common problem by building robots and entering them in competitions. In addition to FIRST Robotics, summer internships for students at Lockheed Martin are included as part of the WIRED-grant.

**Individual success story:**

Tamer Mohamed was born in the African country of Sudan and moved to the United States with his family at the age of nine. Mohamed's parents moved to this country for one main reason: a better education for their children. When Mohamed arrived in the United States and started school, he knew no English.

Mohamed chose to attend Denver Public School's CEC Middle College. CEC is a comprehensive career and technical magnet school that provides students with the advantage of a real-life learning experience offered through numerous career-oriented courses.

During Mohamed's sophomore year at CEC, he and many of his fellow Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) classmates formed a team to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Mohamed also participated in FIRST Robotics his junior and senior years at CEC. "The team definitely struggled a lot at the beginning, but soon things started coming together," Mohamed says. "By our senior year, we improved to finish 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 teams. I am proud of our progression and accomplishments."



*"FIRST Robotics was one of the best things I was involved in during high school."*

Mohamed reported many benefits from the First Robotic program, "The program helped us apply things we were learning in classes like physics that we never thought we would actually use. FIRST Robotics also helped me and others learn how to better work in teams, communicate and hone our leadership skills."

In his senior year at CEC, Mohamed found out that he won a prestigious Daniels Scholarship given to deserving students who are at risk of not being able to afford a college education. Applicants for Daniels Scholarships are evaluated on strength of character, academic promise, leadership potential, potential to contribute to one's community and well-rounded personality.

Mohamed is taking his Daniels Scholarship to the University of Colorado at Boulder where he will be studying chemical engineering while also taking pre-med classes. After his undergraduate degree, Mohamed plans on getting a medical degree so he can accomplish his ultimate goal of

being a radiologist. "Radiology seems like a great combination of science and engineering," Mohamed says.

"Looking back at the First Robotics program, I realize that it really helped spark my interest in engineering and technology. FIRST Robotics was one of the best things I was involved in during high school."

---

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE METRO DENVER WIRED INITIATIVE, GO TO [WWW.METRODENVER.ORG/WIRED](http://WWW.METRODENVER.ORG/WIRED)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST Robotics, GO TO [WWW.COLORADOFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.COLORADOFIRST.ORG)

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded under the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, and the City and County of Denver's Office of Economic Development. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This solution is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.