

Mike Hartman – Deans List Essay – 3,958

Rolling Thunder, Mike Hartman, Junior, Boston

Have you ever met a student that lives, eats, breathes and sleeps robotics? For 1511, that student is Mike Hartman. Setting and attaining the ambitious goal of attending EVERY 1511 event and logging the most build season hours, he is the epitome of dedication!

Mike joined FIRST looking to add to his resume to get into a good college; however, he discovered much more than he expected - a family. FIRST has helped him grow both academically and as a person. After only his second year on the team, he already plans to return after graduation to mentor and help new students in the way he has received help from all of 1511's mentors.

This year, Mike joined the leadership team, taking the roles of School Relations and Co-Treasurer. He works with the school to reserve rooms for all our activities, advertises our events, and keeps the Board of Education updated on our achievements. This year he gave the new school principal a tour of our new shop and explained to him how our robot worked.

As a reporter for the school newspaper, he wrote multiple articles about FIRST to inform the school about the program and to recruit students, advertise events, and describe how our team helps our community. He also helped write press releases and articles that were sent to our team's sponsors to update them on team progress and invite them to events.

Mike has attended all 19 demos, 11 community services, and team events! He also led our team's Hexbug fundraiser where we raised over \$1500! This year, Mike created a mock build season, which involved organizing balanced teams, obtaining parts to be used and researching the game. We attribute the more than doubled retention rate of new students to this training!

Mike also joined every subteam to interact with all 1511 members and learn about the different aspects of the team and robot. Mike worked with the programming subteam on the beta system and learned how to program the black jaguars to use CAN software. He worked with the mechanical subteam to build a VEX robot for our mock build season. Being on every subteam, he was excited to witness students grow and help them along the way. He motivated three students to take on new roles of becoming subteam leaders for mechanical, electrical and corporate.

Mike has been focused on the electrical aspect of the robot, spending build season wiring the robot and helping out with the control system. He taught several students how to create PWM cables and CAN bus cables. He also designed the electronics for the robot this year in Inventor to make sure the layout would work with the robot's mechanical design. As he enjoys all forms of engineering, he also assisted the mechanical team by helping put together the beater bar for our robot. He hit a personal record of 267 build season hours this year!

He helped write the Chairman's Award and headed up writing the WFA submission. He always tries to be gracious and professional by helping anyone that needs it. Recently, at the Rochester Rally, he helped a rookie team create CAN cables for their robot so all of their jaguars would work. He also helped tutor two students after school so that they could improve their grades and continue to be on the team.

Mike makes sure we all have fun while staying safe. He has been our Safety Captain the past two years and was Star of the Day at the Chesapeake Regional with a record 79 safety tokens! He even switched out an LED on his safety glasses to match team colors!

Mike is hoping to attend MIT to either dual major in electrical and computer engineering, or in chemical engineering, or to triple major in electrical, computer and mechanical engineering. Despite a hectic schedule and ambitious plans for the future, Mike always demonstrates a high level of energy and enthusiasm. He enjoys every aspect of the FIRST team and is truly hooked and dedicated to the cause! There is no doubt he is in FIRST for life!



http://rollingthunder.smugmug.com/2009-2010-FIRST-Robotics/Build-Season/Week-5-207-213/DSC0084/789109246_do28J-XL.jpg



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