

Mo is the epitome of a FIRST student. Mo is FIRST-centric. He requires O2 and FIRST in his lungs to breathe. Mo's passion and dedication to FIRST is shown in everything he does.

Mo has been involved in FIRST for almost half of his life and will be involved in FIRST for the rest of his life. In FLL, he was mentored by a 1511 student and made it his goal to join 1511. It has become his family, his passion, what he loves, inspiring him to accomplish all of his goals, including a career in Biomedical Engineering. He says, "FIRST is my life." His new goal is to start teams where FIRST doesn't exist, passing on the inspiration.

Mo's entrepreneurial spirit is our FLL program. As FLL Coordinator, he helped start 50+ FLL and Jr. FLL teams in 3 years and recruited more 1511 students to mentor. He has organized 2 FLL coach training sessions and 4 team help-sessions each year. He also brought back our Razzle Dazzle event, a pre-competition FLL scrimmage with full fields and judges. He organizes Rumble, our annual postseason FLL competition. He was promoted to Judge at the local FLL events because the coordinators recognize his knowledge and maturity. He also works at a LEGO robotics camp using NXT kits. Mo gets that FLL is the future of FIRST and wants to start the inspiration as early as possible.

Mo's greatest achievement thus far was helping to get FLL embedded into the Penfield School curriculum. This year, he worked with his Project Lead the Way teacher for weeks to create a curriculum for students with special needs using NXT robots. His teacher says, "He volunteered his time building several different robot configurations and robot accessories for us to use in the classroom. With his vast knowledge of the robots, how they work, and his prior experiences, he made my experience learning how to use the robots much more enjoyable. Due to his help with the NXT robots, I was able to teach the kids more than the basics." Penfield High School's science Olympiad team asked Mo to help the team. He teaches them engineering principles, robotics and mechanics. These experiences have expanded Mo's teaching and leadership skills.

Mo's dedication to teaching younger kids was evident to a woman who brought her son with disabilities to one of our robot demonstrations. Mo patiently answered the son's many questions, inspiring him to build his own robot. The mother wrote to Penfield High's principal about how compassionate Mo was towards her son. Mo uses that letter as a reminder of why he does what he does and the impact of FIRST.

As a team leader, Mo runs team meetings and organizes events including Toys for Tots, sorting toys for over 2000 kids; Greentopia, an environmental festival; and Souperbowl, collecting over 200 lbs of food for local shelters. When Mo spends his summers in Egypt, he Skypes with leadership at 2am. His dedication outweighs his need for sleep.

Mo's background has taught him rare life lessons. He says, "With all the recent political instability, it has really challenged me to try to view the structure of the world we live in...It got me to analyze leadership styles." His leadership style? Inspiration, as it benefits the future! His interest in international politics led him to join Model UN where he has learned much about diplomacy. At his debates, he wears

a red camouflage tie he created to match our uniforms to segue into FIRST. He applies the philosophy of FIRST everywhere!

As much as his loyalty lies with 1511, we would be remiss not to mention he is a fan of FRC148. He understands the value in learning from others. As he works to model our team after the great teams in FIRST, he also models himself after the mentors who have influenced him.

Mo's FIRST journey started with an inspiring experience in FLL. In FRC, the inspiration has not stopped. FIRST has driven him to inspire others and he has already done that in many ways. We can only imagine what he will do in the years to come!