Kate

As an FLL and FTC alum, a true FIRST legacy student, Kate is a strong leader with a superb technical skillset. Her ever-positive attitude, even when facing the greatest challenges of an FRC season, infects her peers with the motivation and inspiration to succeed as a team.

Kate was first introduced to programming 6 years ago when she joined FLL. She continued on FTC6996 where she made great contributions to the team's automated robot routines, affectionately dubbed, "Autonomoose." Now in her 3rd year on 1511 and serving as our lead programmer, Kate uses her vast technical skills and experience to create effective "Autonomoose" modes and solve many programming challenges to produce effective robots. As a freshman, Kate faced the daunting task of controlling a telescoping arm that climbed and whose mechanical design made precise motion control necessary. Kate met the challenge, creating code that moved the arm with ease and included safety lock-outs to prevent catastrophe. As a sophomore, she became lead programmer, delegating code development to her peers and providing them assistance. She led improvements to our autonomous by implementing a vision tracking and target recognition in just one short week, yielding greater accuracy and scoring! As a junior, Kate's increased leadership skills has allowed mentors the freedom to help other parts of the team. She broadened her skillset by learning about electrical sensor selection and pneumatic systems.

In Competition, Kate has been on Pit Crew every year, leading diagnostics and repairs and effectively communicating with Drive Team. During Preseason, she leads our team's contributions to the FRC Control System Beta test, which helps to ensure a quality control system is available to all FRC teams. For teams competing this year that lack autonomous, she has plans to equip them with their own "Autonomoose"!

Kate remains involved in FLL and FTC. Elected as FLL/FTC Coordinator, she maintains a relationship with our teams by volunteering at their events, helping FTC6996 raise funds, and organizing help sessions where 1511 students mentor them. She has identified how we can more effectively help teams. Veteran teams receive help with sensors and more sophisticated designs. For new teams, Kate is organizing an introductory meeting to FLL, and helping with the project. She hopes that her mentoring will inspire them to continue with FIRST as she did.

Kate also gives back to her community. She has welcomed home Honor Flight veterans, packed over 2000 donations for FIRST Mega Drive, walked all night to raise money for Camp Good Days, and moved books for 6 hours after the library sale. She raises awareness of FIRST, participating in 23 robot

demonstrations: Science Exploration Day, Rochester Mini Maker Faire, NYS Fair, and recruiting FIRST students at elementary schools.

Outside of robotics, Kate mentors her former middle school Science Olympiad team. She bakes cookies for hospice residents and delivers them on Fridays, takes all honors and AP classes, is on French Club, and has played piano for 13 years. Writing is also a passion of hers with 2 honorable mentions in New York Times' 2017 Summer Reading Contest, out of 9000 submissions!

Her writing skills have been put to good use as co-author of the Woodie Flowers essay. And she is a skilled artist, lending her hand with the team shirt design and Chairman's video. She is a team player, helps out where needed, as she realizes every task is an important part of the bigger picture.

Kate's future is bright. She aspires to go to Olin College of Engineering for Chemical or Biomedical Engineering due to its hands-on learning that is similar to FIRST. Her mentorship of younger teams and giving back to her community makes us confident she will continue to be a lifelong FIRST member. Kate is focused and dedicated, routinely one of the last students to leave despite her heavy course load. If you can't find her, she's probably tucked under a desk programming away!

Kate