

Explain how the student embodies the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition through the FIRST Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. Please provide examples.

Nicole aligns with FIRST's core values. She discovered many skills such as CAD and presentation, and self-taught video editing. She does not fear what she does not yet know. She showed innovation as co-leader of the design team for our robot's hang mechanism. She wants everyone to succeed; from encouraging her teammates to take on leadership roles to helping a Chinese team reassemble their robot. She's our first Junior elected as Team Captain! During our virtual meetings, her focus is on keeping spirits up with her jokes and high energy. Nicole makes an impact as a role model to young females in STEM. At our team events, like Girls In STEM Fair at RIT, she draws in girls by showing how cool it is being on a robotics team and that STEM is fun. Nicole planned, organized and led a Girl Scout FIRST event to earn their merit badge. She gave them a tour of the shop, showed them how the machines worked and examples of simple machines, let them drive and play catch with our robot. They loved it!

How has the student increased the awareness of FIRST? Describe the student's interests and/or plans to continue to engage with FIRST beyond high school. Please provide examples.

She lobbies for FIRST and STEM funding in local and national government. Last summer she organized meetings with 3 NYS Reps to discuss funding for NY State *FIRST* teams and they immediately supported the bill! To keep kids engaged in STEM during COVID, she created the "We Can Robot" YouTube series. She made 1000 STEM kits with FIRST info that were given to every K-2 Rochester City School student. She's taught K-5 kids STEM topics at a week-long camp the past 5 years. Nicole is our top presenter at highly attended events: Detroit Champs, e-NABLECON, Empire State Maker Fair. She promotes FIRST at large-scale events with our robot, such as the NYS School Board Assoc. Conference and State Fair. She's often picked to interview for the news at FIRST events because she excels at articulating her passion for FIRST and STEM. Nicole's diverse methods of promoting FIRST are building blocks to her future roles as part of FIRST in the foreseeable future. Her ongoing mentorship of FTC is just the start!

Describe the student's technical expertise, entrepreneurship and creativity. How does the student's individual contributions to the team benefit the team as a whole in areas of fundraising, outreach, robot build, programming, etc.? Please provide examples.

Nicole is a key contributor! She's 1 of 3 students on the Representative Board of Robotics writing team policies. In 2 seasons, she's devoted 720+ build and competition, 49 robot demo and 23 community service hours: she's done many drives (\$1000 in Patron Drive, 10 fundraisers & 210 toiletry items). She's dedicated to keeping FIRST active, participating at all levels with 65 hours for FLL Jr, FLL & FTC teams at help sessions, summer camps and as a competition volunteer! Nicole's most innovative endeavor is the "We Can Robot" 7-part YouTube series with topics on programming, simple machines and advocacy. She scripted, recruited speakers, recorded and edited the videos, all new for her. The result is amazing! Her technical expertise began with 3D printed prosthetics, evolving to robot parts and 79 face shields for essential workers. She now engineers projects from start to finish, is proficient in CAD, fabrication, assembly and troubleshooting. She's also been on drive team and pit crew!

Explain the student's leadership to their fellow team members. How do they motivate others? What is their leadership style? Please provide examples.

Nicole's leadership style is positivity, which motivates teammates and allows her to keep a level head in challenging situations. She is a friend to everyone, promoting inclusivity. Her ability to connect with her teammates is a special talent. She works one-on-one to help them through a task, whether visiting a sponsor or training on shop machines. She helps them understand their strengths, builds their confidence and knows that investing in each person benefits them, the team and the community at large. Summer 2019 she took on a revamp of our elevator electrical chain along with a potential student on the spectrum. His mom wanted him to try robotics in the summer (lower pressure). Now he is a valued team member and the robot never worked better! She does any task necessary; you suggest something and she's off planning it. She is the last one standing at the end of the day. As Team Captain, Nicole's guided 1511 through a difficult time with grace and optimism, being the leader we need.