

Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – December 2022

Equity – Treating everyone fairly, having equal opportunities and removing barriers

Diversity – The way we are all different

Inclusion – Creating space for everyone where differences are embraced

Team Share from # FRC Team 5679 Girls on Fire

FRC Team 5679, commonly known as 'Girls on Fire', is a small all-girls community team in Winston-Salem. In late 2014, we were founded by Inmar Intelligence with the goal of inspiring young girls. As an all-girls team, we are committed to empowering underrepresented youth in STEAM. We also assist two local all-girls FTC teams, Sisters of the Motherboard and Code Sisters.

Setting and environment are very important to how we see ourselves. By creating an environment where girls take the lead, new members are encouraged to follow their example. Another benefit of being an all-girls team is more subtle. By encouraging one minority in STEAM, it also inspires members of other minorities. It causes them to think 'if they can, why can't I?' and helps them get over the first hurdle and believe in their own abilities.


Exposing girls to STEAM at a young age increases their likelihood of pursuing a career in STEAM later in life. Consequently, even though we are a small team, we still make a difference. By being an all-girls team we encourage girls to become involved in STEAM which is very important, and we hope to inspire other girls in our community to explore all that STEAM has to offer.

If your team has something they'd like to share, send them to the ED&I team at FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! - Free STEM Activities – Part 1

Join us in celebrating science, technology, engineering, and math with free activities and learn more about how our partners are leading the way to a more sustainable future.

 **Energy-themed Kahoot! Series** aligned to our season theme, *FIRST*[®] ENERGIZESM presented by Qualcomm.

 ***FIRST* @ Home** curriculum series and skill-building library.

December Events:

12/1 – World AIDS Day: helps raise awareness of HIV/AIDs and money to cure it

12/3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations): raises awareness for the rights and well-being of those with disabilities

12/10 – International Human Rights Day (United Nations): adopted by the UN in 1948, celebrates the day it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

12/16-12/24 – Las Posadas (Mexican): religious festival in Mexico and some parts of the U.S. (primarily those with Mexican-Americans) of the Christmas season

12/18-12/26 – Hanukkah (Jewish): celebrates the Jews triumphing over the Syrian Greeks for their independence

12/21 – Winter Solstice/Yule: the winter Sabbath according to the Pagan and Wiccan faiths

12/25 – Christmas (Christian): holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

12/26 – Kwanzaa (Black): 8-day holiday inspired by African harvest celebrations

Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Real Engineers - Career Case Studies:

Bhavik Ajaykumar Mehta - Chemical Engineering



I come from a typical Indian family with traditional beliefs but with a twist; I was brought up in a foreign country and not in India. While many people from similar backgrounds to me often work in their family business, I was also allowed to choose a career path for myself.

Learn more: <https://neonfutures.org.uk/case-study/chemical-engineer-bhavik-mehta/>

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Youth Training: “Working Together” – Animation Video

The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (ED&I) Youth Training is for all *FIRST* students. It is designed to educate *FIRST* students about the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion while providing strategies and recommendations to help *FIRST* create a more inclusive and diverse environment.

This short animation video shows a *FIRST* team working through discrimination and bias while gaining an understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion. Watch here - https://youtu.be/_4Pi-cOB5YE

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

We are a team of coaches/mentors who want to help create a community and culture of people who embrace the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, who want to develop themselves, and who understand that growth and diversity of all types lead to team excellence.

Anisha Patel - The Pitt Pirates 2642
Dave Lashley (he/him) - Team SPORK 3196

Linda Whipker - Team PyroTech 3459
Melissa “Bee” Bube (they/she) - Girls on Fire 5679

All Editions are Available Online at: <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/belonging-newsletter>