

Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – September 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 #5190, Green Hope Falcons (*Provided by Annika B.*)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are vital to any organization. At FRC 5190, we are proud to uphold these ideals in a variety of ways. It is a known fact that in many STEM fields, female and non-binary representation is lacking. As a way to uplift their voices and provide a platform where they can explore robotics, especially FRC, we created *Doyenne Inspiration*. This initiative promotes these groups through recurring virtual speakers as well as an off-season competition event. Virtual sessions allow students to learn about many careers across STEM and have included guests from IBM, Moen, Girls + Data, NetApp, and more. Our most recent Speaker Series event featured FIRST North Carolina's own Michaela Settle, NC's first female FTA. The off-season event, co-hosted with other NC teams, is an opportunity for females and non-binary students to engage in all aspects of a competition from drive team to pit crew and everything in between. In its third year, this competition has quickly become a favorite off-season event!

However, female, and nonbinary people are not the only ones who have reduced access to STEM. In an effort to make robotics more readily available to students in our area, this past August, we continued our partnership with MetLife for the third time to host a reduced-cost robotics summer camp. Because of this partnership, thirty area students were able to sign up for this camp. We wanted to ensure that any student interested in robotics and STEM would be able to enroll and participate without any barriers.

Additionally, our team is determined to continue supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion not just in the events we plan, but within the team itself. This year, the majority of our leadership team is female, as are many of our mentors, and we are looking forward to seeing more underrepresented groups explore aspects of STEM and robotics going forward.

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! - Bringing STEM engagement to disadvantaged youth through community-based organizations

Community-based organizations like the YMCA, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and local nonprofits can expand opportunities for young people who are disadvantaged, introducing them to STEM ideas and engagement activities that are not always available in their homes and schools. The FIRST® STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant initiative has identified strategies to help any community organization open STEM pathways for students.

Read more: <https://www.firstinspires.org/stories/bringing-stem-engagement-disadvantaged-youth>

September Events:

September 15th – National Hispanic Heritage Month: *This month honors the culture and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans*

National Recovery Month: *This month helps to educate all Americans on treatment and mental health services for those with substance use disorder*

September 20th – HeForShe (Women): *Initiated by the UN to promote gender equality (“HeForShe is an invitation for men and people of all genders to stand in solidarity with women to create a bold, visible and united force for gender equality.” <https://www.heforshe.org/en>)*

September 22nd – Autumnal Equinox: *As summer moves into fall, the autumnal equinox is a time for various religious observances worldwide*

September 25th – 27th – Rosh Hashanah (Jewish): *The Jewish New Year, a time for reflection in the faith*

Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Nick Vujicic (“voo-yi-chich”)

Born: Melbourne, Australia. December 4, 1982



Content Note: bullying, suicide attempt

Nick Vujicic is an Australian-American born without arms or legs who has become a world-renowned speaker, New York Times best-selling author, coach and entrepreneur.

Nick faced tremendous obstacles in life from, living life without limbs, to being bullied at school and fearful for his future with no purpose in sight. Without hope, his feelings of helplessness and isolation led him to attempt suicide. Nick persevered through life’s challenges and discovered key principles which enabled him to find his purpose and turn obstacles into opportunities; making him one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the world! Millions of people have found hope, purpose and the strength to overcome their challenges through Nick’s inspirational speeches and powerful coaching.

Nick is an anti-bullying advocate who travels the globe speaking to millions of students in partnership with Education Departments of several Governments. Nick has created an innovative Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum called “Attitude Is Altitude,” wherein he teaches students to make positive changes in their lives and their communities.

He is also the founder and CEO of the non-profit ministry, Life Without Limbs.

Click the following link to learn more: <https://nickvujicic.com/>

ED&I Retention and Participation Tips: *Try every role.*

Have all team members, including Mentors and Volunteers, try every role. This sends a message that you believe everyone can participate on the team in a variety of ways successfully

More @ <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/training-equity-diversity-inclusion>

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>