

Arti Javeri
Woodie Flowers Finalist Award Essay (2016)

Steven Spielberg once said, “The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.” Arti Javeri truly epitomizes this as a mentor. She has always been extremely dedicated to the team, willing to do whatever it takes in order for us to achieve our goals.

Mrs. J exhibits the skills of an industry level engineering manager, teaching our team the importance of organizational structure and following timelines. She pushes us to be professional when making critical decisions in an engineering setting. Beyond the management level, she takes time to personally convey STEM concepts to students. She facilitates library workshops and has driven all team members to lead these workshops, teaching gear ratios, torque, and simple machines to each student.

Mrs. J goes beyond STEM to also drive the benefits of STEAM concepts. Without the organizational skillset that the business side offers, the engineering side would not be evolving. She holds workshops, teaching us public speaking and leadership. We were able to develop our business team using her experience from Hewlett Packard. She teaches us how to network meaningfully, regardless of method. Our engineering team is taught other skills through presentations and marketing initiatives. Thanks to Mrs J, students have a high degree of self-confidence that ensures their success in and out of FIRST.

Throughout Mrs. J's many years in FIRST, she has been actively involved at all levels. She has volunteered at 13 FIRST events over 5 years. The multitude of roles she has includes: being a member of the Greater Toronto Regional West/Central planning committee for 3 years, volunteer coordinator, and pit admin. She was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at GTR-East in 2014. Mrs. J has spread her love for FIRST across the GTA, starting FLL teams and teaching workshops for the past 3 years at SWATposium. An example of her impact is the FIRST Badge Program which has now been adopted by FIRST and is being spread globally.

Since our inception, Mrs. J has become the glue that holds us together. She helped us achieve a greater appreciation of the team, bridging the gap between business and robot. At the 2015 Windsor Regional, our morale was very low after many poor matches. It was Mrs. J that boosted our spirits and reminded us that we should never get too caught up with the results, instead we should reflect on all the great work that we've accomplished. All of her efforts, big and small, help us pull through anything our team faces.

Mrs. J is a driving force for our team. She is best known for her involvement in FIRST, alongside her professionalism and sheer passion for our development. She is an irreplaceable part of Team 1285, pushing students to use our maximum potential and guiding us to be the team we are today.