

Dean's List 2017 – Sudiksha Devanathan

Over the past 3 years, Sudiksha Devanathan has shown to be a true ambassador of FIRST. Ever since her first day in the robotics program, she has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills that continue to thrive every day. Quickly developing from a timid and curious student to a determined and outspoken leader, Sudiksha exemplifies passion, enthusiasm, and dedication for FIRST.

Now in grade 11, Sudiksha is an established leader on various aspects of the team. Her perseverance through the years has lead her to take on lead roles as a Chairman's presenter and human player on the drive team. As a lead student on the business team, she is integral in the planning and writing process of the team's Chairman's Award, as well as coordinating students to reach huge milestones. She's always readily available to connect students with necessary resources and assistance to achieve their goals. When teaching business workshops about team history, mission, awards submissions and outreach, Sudiksha helps new team members become introduced to FIRST ideals. This helps to encapsulate Team 1241's role in the world of FIRST and the widespread impact of team efforts. The magnitude of this kind of help instills and emphasizes a feeling of pride and belonging to the Blue and Orange that Sudiksha embodies as its ambassador. Furthermore, Sudiksha took it upon herself to expand her knowledge this year to learn 3D modeling and now plays an essential role in the design and assembly of this year's robot hopper system. She provokes creative thinking in her peers during robot design sessions by encouraging them to provide rationale behind their thought process. To further demonstrate her passion, she also coordinated one of the summer lunch programs that fundraised \$3200 for the team! Her accomplishments make it evident that Sudiksha is a well-rounded leader.

Sudiksha's exceptional drive and work ethic emulates strong qualities of a role model for females in STEAM. This is reflected by her many contributions but also her qualification for the drive team. She has performed the human player role in the regular season and drove the robot for our off-season all-girls team in 2016. Sudiksha inspires other females to have confidence in making their decisions, and challenge themselves by grasping new opportunities. She is a champion for women to break glass ceilings and she carries on this mission through her outreach in her community.

Sudiksha has left a strong footprint for FIRST in her community. At the local library, she teaches children about electrical and mechanical systems. She organized tours and robot demonstrations at our school for United Way agencies to include robotics in their social programs, resulting in new opportunities for disadvantaged communities to experience STEAM. Sudiksha has helped immigrant students be exposed to STEAM by creating standardized documents for Syrian refugees. Her commitment extends further in the recruitment of her peers and refugees to volunteer for FLL tournaments. She's played a central role at the FLL tournaments, this year as an MC. She has even gone the extra mile by dressing up as a bear in relation to the game theme to provide the children a welcoming and fun atmosphere. Sudiksha is an ambassador for the world of FIRST in providing these opportunities for her peers and community. By being able to channel her passion, Sudiksha increases exposure for FIRST, therefore bringing together a stronger community.

Sudiksha Devanathan undoubtedly demonstrates FIRST values and drives change in the community. Whether to her local peers or to those from far, her devotion for STEAM spreads wide to those she meets. She brings the most amount of positivity and persistence wherever she goes, allowing herself and all those she impacts to achieve anything they set their minds to.