



2017 *FIRST*[®] Championship Conference

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Terina-Jasmine Alladin, Regional Affiliate Manager, Aspirations in Computing and AiC Community Manager

Terina-Jasmine (TJ) focuses her professional efforts on uplifting women, girls of color, English language learners, and students with disabilities. Prior to joining NCWIT as a consultant, TJ worked as a Program Manager at Science Club for Girls, a non-profit organization that supports girls who are underrepresented in STEM careers through programming, internships, and mentoring. TJ also worked as a data consultant for the US Soccer Foundation and as a consultant of the Boston Ballet, where she managed school-based arts programs and taught in the Boston Ballet's world-renowned Adaptive Dance Program, which provides high-caliber dance instruction to youth and adults with Down syndrome and/or Autism Spectrum Disorders. TJ received her MSc in dance science from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in the United Kingdom, the world's foremost center for research in dance science. There, she studied statistics and analyzed instruments for measuring physiological capacity. She is the Founder and principal consultant for a Boston-based arts consulting collaborative, Cultural Capital, where teaching artists receive training, professional development, and residencies in Boston public schools that do not have access to quality arts programming. TJ is a Philadelphia resident from Brooklyn, New York with a rich heritage from Georgetown, Guyana.

Andy Baker, President, AndyMark, Mentor for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 3940 and 2003 Championship WFA Winner

Andy is a husband and proud father of three *FIRST*-involved daughters. He has been a *FIRST* mentor since 1998, being involved on *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams 45 and 3940. He is an engineer and entrepreneur, and owner of AndyMark, Inc.

Andrew Bannish, Program Manager, China *FIRST*

Andrew has been an advocate for providing top educational solutions to students around the world since 2010 and has managed the *FIRST* Program in China since 2014. His writings and speeches on education have appeared in the Chinese national spotlight such as the Hurun Report (胡润百富), CCTV and he is a regular panelist on the Beijing TV show "Beijing Guest." Andrew has mentored *FIRST* Tech Challenge and *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams in North China since his arrival in Beijing.

Addie Bjornson, Assistant General Manager, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2557, the SOTAbots

Addie is a student leader on *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2557 the SOTAbots in Tacoma, WA. She is an avid volunteer in her community, bringing robots to kids at museums and her local hospital to educate and inspire. She is also an active volunteer at many *FIRST* events throughout the year. Her passion for *FIRST* Robotics has no limits, and she is invested in recruiting more female members and mentors in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition program. Her new research is shedding light on the gender demographics of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition community, and she has been running workshops throughout the season to spread awareness of the work still needed to create gender equality in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition community.



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Chonnie Blair, Programs Supervisor, Project Management Institute, Educational Foundation

Chonnie Blair is a motivated, enthusiastic professional who has over 20 years of professional experience in operations management, sales management, financial management and educational leadership. She is a highly qualified secondary educator who, after seven years of classroom experience, explored professional opportunities that would have greater impact on students and educators alike through systemic methods and approaches by which equity in education could shift from being just an aspirational goal to a global reality. Chonnie is the Programs Supervisor for PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF). In this role, she oversees the PMIEF's Youth and Nonprofit as well as the Scholarship and Awards program that supports the edification and recognition of project managers worldwide. Prior to her tenure at PMIEF, Chonnie worked as an Associate Director at Drexel University's School of Education, a Strategic Partnership Manager for a nonprofit organization, a Financial Manager at Ernst & Young, LLP, a Sales Representative and Operations Manager at Xerox Corporation. Chonnie is the proud mother of one exceptional young woman - while being a mentor to many former students – who enjoys traveling and finding impactful ways to serve her community in her 'spare' time.

Mari Bray, Captain, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 1280

Mari has been involved in *FIRST* Robotics since the fourth grade. She was on an all-girls *FIRST* LEGO League Team for 5 years, an all-girls *FIRST* Robotics Competition team for 2 years and now captains a co-ed team at her high school. She has presented at a Girl Scouts national think tank on girls in STEM, taught numerous robotics workshops to a variety of students from a wide range of backgrounds in the Silicon Valley and mentored 5 *FIRST* LEGO League teams, both all girl, all boy and co-ed.

Dr. Art Cavazos, Superintendent, Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District

Changing the landscape of education and the opportunities that are provided to students, Harlingen CISD Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos is a nationally recognized leader with almost 30 years of experience in education. Since being named the HCISD Superintendent in November 2013, he was awarded the 2014 national and state Distinguished School Administrators Award by the American and Texas Association of School Librarians for his efforts to advance library and literacy services. In November 2014, it was announced that he was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 100 top school leaders from across America and was invited to participate in the first-ever National ConnectED Superintendents Summit at the White House. Texas Governor, Greg Abbott recently appointed Dr. Cavazos to serve on the State Board for Educator Certification. Dr. Cavazos is a valley native who grew up in the fields of South Texas and worked his way through school to eventually attain his doctorate degree from the University of Texas. He has been married to Sharon for over 20 years and has two sons, Christopher and Matthew.



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Gardner Chambliss, Engineer, Atkins Global, and Mentor, G3 Robotics and Drone Team

Gardner has 40 years' experience as a systems engineer and 15 years of experience with *FIRST*. He mentored one of the first *FIRST* LEGO League teams in Georgia and was the founding mentor of G3 Robotics Competition Team 1648 at Grady HS in Atlanta Georgia in 2014. Gardner is also a founding mentor of the high school G3 Drone Team and founding mentor of the middle school STEM program G3 Drones for Good in 2015.

Jesse Clayton, Senior Manager for Product Management for Intelligent Machines, NVIDIA

Jesse Clayton is the Senior Product Manager for Intelligent Machines at NVIDIA. He has over 20 years of experience in technology spanning software, GPU computing, embedded systems, and aeronautics. His current focus is bringing advanced computer vision and deep learning solutions to autonomous machines and intelligent devices. He holds a B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Dr. Mary Isaac, Consultant/*FIRST* Volunteer

Dr. Mary Isaac is a passionate practitioner and researcher working to improve the engagement of females in engineering and technology (E&T) through communities of practice. With degrees in engineering (BSME, 1982), teaching (MAT, 2011), and education (PhD, 2015), she conducted engineering outreach throughout her 30-year career at a large multinational company, presenting and publishing through organizations including the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), American Society of Engineering Educators (ASEE), National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) and International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA).

Tim Easterling, LabVIEW Developer, Kauai Labs; Programming/Electrical Mentor, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 6043 (Allegan Tigers)

Tim is a 20-year veteran engineer from Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan with professional experience as a Test Engineer/Lead Equipment Engineer/Calibration Lead and Application Developer in the automotive industry, including significant robotics experience. Tim has developed the navX-AE and SF2 LabVIEW libraries, and is focused on making complex technology easy to use for *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams.

Liam Fay, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2485

Liam is a junior on *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2485, the Francis Parker W.A.R. Lords who fell in love with robotics during the summer of his sophomore year. As President of Business and Outreach, he developed the Secret to a Better Robot workshop to help other *FIRST* teams learn to work cooperatively - in the spirit of Coopertition! In addition to his work on Team 2485, Liam is an experienced improviser, having performed in multiple improv theaters including National Comedy Theater, Finest City Improv and ImprovBoston.



Will Ferrari, Engineering President, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2102

Will has been involved in *FIRST* Robotics and a member of Team Paradox for four years. Having previously served as one of the senior robot designers (3 years) and technical lead for all things electrical and pneumatic (3 years), he currently functions as the team's Co-Engineering President and Lead Control System Engineer. Will is a Senior and aspires to pursue a career in mechanical/manufacturing engineering.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1902, Exploding Bacon (FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1902, Exploding Bacon (Elise Cronin-Hurley, Team Lead, Marketing & Image Mentor, Sarah Holman, Ruhi Lankalapalli, RJ Woods, and Sean Cannon)

4-H Exploding Bacon, Team 1902 from Orlando, FL are the recipients of 4 Regional Imagery Awards, 5 Regional Chairman's Awards, 2 Regional Engineering Inspiration Awards and the 2013 World Championship Kamen Family Imagery Award. Our strategic planning and defined branding along with our bright green and orange robots, intriguing name, and iconic pig on the rocket logo have gained recognition within the *FIRST* community as well as our local community.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1983, Skunk Works (Kaeden Wile, Erin Demaree & Kenny Pham-Student Leads, Robert Steele & Steve Burke-Coach/Mentors)

Skunk Works Robotics was formed in 2006. We have qualified for Championship every year. Our Mission is to inspire and educate our students to prepare them for a career in STEM, to embody the message of *FIRST*, and role model STEM for our community. Steve has years of public speaking experience including three well received previous conference presentations in St. Louis. Coach Steele has been involved with *FIRST* Robotics Competition for 18 years, taught numerous workshops and training sessions and is a Pacific NW Woodie Flowers award winner.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2102 - Team Paradox (Will Ferrari - Co-Engineering President, Wayde Gilliam IV - Co-Engineering President, Connor Still - Scouting Lead, Spencer Klawans - Developer, Wayde Gilliam III - Mentor)

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2102, Team Paradox is a year-round, student-run team based out of San Dieguito High School Academy in Encinitas, CA. Our team was founded during the 2006-2007 season, and thanks to the support of dedicated parents, mentors, community members and the SDA faculty, it has grown to 60+ members strong. Most of the students on this panel have been involved with *FIRST* since elementary school and, from leadership to engineering, contribute substantially in all aspects of our team's robotics program and the scouting/analytics system presented in this session.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 3132

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 3132 was founded in 2009 as the first team in Australia with a mission of bringing "STEM to Everyone Everywhere." The team has taken this to heart, bringing *FIRST* to China, India, Australian Outback, Navajo nation of America, and more!



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***FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 4911, CyberKnights**

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4911 CyberKnights is a fourth year *FIRST* Robotics Competition team from Seattle, Washington. Their mission is to inspire future leaders and increase opportunities for all students by using robotics to bridge the gaps through peer mentorship in an inclusive and equitable environment.

***FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 8569, RoboKnights**

Team 8569, RoboKnights, is *FIRST* Tech Challenge team from Camelot Academy, in Durham N.C. We formed our team three years ago after several team members graduated from the school's *FIRST* LEGO League teams and wished to continue the *FIRST* experience. We have presented at the *FIRST* World Championship for three years. Mentor Rosalind Radcliffe works in the IT industry and is providing support for the programming group.

Jay Flores, STEM Ambassador, Rockwell Automation

Jay has a mission: instilling a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in today's young minds. As a guest speaker, Jay is masterful in connecting STEM to everyday life and motivating students to become tomorrow's innovators. His high energy and intellect have been recognized by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), who elected Jay when he was 19 years old as the youngest voting national board member in SHPE history. He was also honored as one of 20 youths to present to congressional leaders and policy makers in 2014 through a LOFT (Leaders on the Fast Track) fellowship. Jay's STEM advocacy and outreach efforts support Rockwell Automation's Engineering Our Future™ and Inspiring Young Minds™ philanthropic priorities, including programs such as Project Lead the Way, ST Math and *FIRST*.

Noelle Foster, Mentor, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 4911, CyberKnights

Noelle, mother of Delaney and Kendall Foster, has been a mentor in 4911 CyberKnights for 4 years. She is a strong advocate for inclusive education practices and equal opportunities for individuals with special needs. Noelle works for Reign Sports Management in digital media and public relations.

Randy Freedman, Director of Student Programs, Society of Women Engineers

Randy Freedman is the Director of Student Programs for the Society of Women Engineers. He has worked in the education space since 1994. Randy began his career as a public-school teacher. He was the Regional Implementation Director for the Discovery Channel in their education division. Randy then served as the K-12 Solutions Director for Sallie Mae with the Upromise Schools fundraising program. In his current role, Randy is responsible for the success of SWE's global K-12 outreach programs and collegiate programs. Working in partnership with volunteer leadership, he is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and resources for use by SWE members in K-12 outreach, SWENext programs and collegiate leadership development. Randy is also the relationship manager for SWE's partnerships with girl-serving organizations, teacher organizations, and other engineering societies.



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Chris Fultz, Head of Program Management, Defense, Rolls-Royce, Mentor for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 234 and 2010 Championship WFA Winner

Chris is a husband and proud father of three *FIRST*-involved children, having two boys and one girl. He has been a *FIRST* mentor since 2001, all with team 234. He is an engineer and manager at Rolls-Royce Corporation.

Evan Gagnon, Primary Builder, *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 247

Evan is a junior at Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta, NJ. He joined robotics as a freshman and quickly showed his skills as a builder. Evan started a *FIRST* LEGO League team at his prior middle school in 2016, and was proud when they qualified for the state championship this year. Evan plans to apply to engineering colleges next year and pursue a career in engineering.

Wayde Gilliam III, Application Development/Analytics Mentor, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2102

"Big Daddy" Wayde is a professional software architect/developer at the University of California, San Diego. With over 20 years of professional development experience, he has served as a mentor for the team in all things related to application development and business intelligence. Wayde's ultimate passions in life are learning and teaching and he can be easily bribed to do either with a hot cup of good coffee.

Wayde Gilliam IV, Engineering President, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2102

Wayde has been involved in *FIRST* Robotics since the third grade and a member of Team Paradox for three years. Having previously served as the Lead Robot Driver (2 years) and a senior robot designer (1 year), he currently functions as the team's Co-Engineering President, Drive Coach, and Design Lead. Wayde is Junior and aspires to pursue a career in a STEM field that combines his passion for business/leadership with that of computer science/design.

Sandra Gonzalez, Human Resources, Space Exploration, The Boeing Company

Sandra is a Human Resources Generalist at The Boeing Company in Houston, Texas where she supports the Space Exploration Division, specifically the International Space Station Program. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from The University of Texas at San Antonio and a Master's in Business Administration from Our Lady of the Lake University. Sandra is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and has held a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification since 2001.

Murali Gopalakrishna, Head of Product Management for Intelligent Machines, NVIDIA

Murali heads up product management for Intelligent Machines at NVIDIA. He is responsible for the definition of embedded platforms which are the platforms of choice in the industry for AI applications. He also leads the Intelligent Machines business development team that focuses on different verticals including Robotics, Drones, Industrial IoT, and Enterprise Collaborative Products. Murali has a Computer Science and Engineering degree from the National Institute of Engineering, India.



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Solomon Greenberg, Programming Lead, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2898

Solomon is currently a junior at Beaverton High School in Portland, Oregon. The lead programmer for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2898, The Flying Hedgehogs, he's enhancing what *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams can achieve with computer vision, employing techniques such as deep neural networks and reinforcement learning. In addition, he's dedicated to help and inspire others to add these techniques to their programming repertoire, apply them in their own code, and encourage the application of computer vision and machine learning by *FIRST* teams.

Liron Gurvitz, Lead Mentor, Yeruham *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 3211

Liron, a *FIRST* Robotics Competition alumni, got hooked on *FIRST* and has been involved ever since. During the last 10 years, he has mentored 3 different *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams, volunteered at dozens of events in key roles, and has been the Lead Mentor of *FIRST* Robotics Competition team 3211 from Yeruham for the last 5 years. During his years on the team, it has moved forward in both its engineering skills and community outreach programs majorly.

Kira Hirsch, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2485

Kira Hirsch, a W.A.R. Lords rookie, joined Team 2485 as a sophomore. Encouraged by Liam, she's jumped in with both feet to become a Chairman's Award presenter and co-presenter of the Secret to a Better Robot, both positions on the W.A.R. Lords business/outreach team. She enjoys helping other *FIRST*ers through speaking, leading and being an ambassador.

Matthew Horstman, Lead Engineer, Booz Allen Hamilton

Matthew Horstman was born and raised in north central Texas. While studying at the University of Texas at Austin, he worked on the calibration of the ICESat satellite and earned a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering in the process. Since graduating, he worked for over a decade in Orbital Debris research at the NASA Johnson Space Center before moving into ISS vehicle configuration analysis and modeling, where he works today.

Spencer Klawans, Member, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2102

Spencer has been involved in *FIRST* Robotics and a member of Team Paradox for several years. He has served as one of the developers for our scouting application and aspires to pursue a career in engineering.

Len Kluff, Vice President, Human Resources, NRG

Len has been with NRG for seven years and is the VP of HR for NRG's Retail, Renewables and Corporate functions. Prior to NRG, Len held HR roles at Electronic Arts and Progress Energy; he started his career with Huff Corporation as an Operations Manager. Len is married with two kids, a daughter 14 and a son 12. He is originally from Wisconsin, but has lived in North Carolina, Florida, Vancouver, BC and Texas. Len has a Master's Degree in Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee.



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Eneya Kwesele, Public Relations Member, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Eneya Kwesele, a sophomore, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 1 year. Eneya would like to share the amazing mind shift she has had from first hearing about Unified Robotics to being involved as a public speaker and representative. In addition to being a CyberKnight, Eneya participates in her school's Mock Trial team.

Dr. Rachel Knoll, Manager, Yeruham Robotics

Dr. Rachell Knoll founded the Physics program of Yeruham almost 20 years ago, and has since dedicated her life to improving the educational system in Yeruham. In addition to starting new programs of STEM education which includes Physics, Chemistry and more, she also started the Robotics program of the town in 2009. The leading person in what is now known as the Robotics Empire of Yeruham, she now holds the position of the Manager of the local Secular public elementary school, in addition to managing the *FIRST* Robotics Competition team.

Ashley Kolaya, Program Manager, TED-Ed

Ashley is a Program Manager for TED-Ed, TED's global youth and education initiative. Working with the students in the TED-Ed Clubs program, Ashley helps develop and share the next generation of ideas worth spreading. Prior to her joining TED, Ashley served as Co-Founder and Managing Partner of HumanMomentum, a leadership and team development consultancy, where she worked with teams at GE, Etsy, and NYU. Ashley received a Master's degree in Public Policy and Organizational Management at New York University.

Courtney Lach, Campus Team, Qualcomm Incorporated

Courtney leads Qualcomm's student engagement programs, ranging from overseeing their top ranked internship program to hosting development conferences to building interactive hackathons. She loves using her creativity to form programs that help students find their best self. Outside of work, she helps inspire women of all ages to learn to code (including herself) by serving as a co-lead of the San Diego Chapter of [Girl Develop It](#).

Scott Libert, Founder, Kauai Labs; Software/Control System Mentor, Team 2465 (KauaiBots); Control System Adviser

Scott is a 30-year veteran software/electrical engineer from Kauai, Hawaii with experience in broadcast television, missile defense and robotics industries. Scott founded Kauai Labs in 2012 to transition leading-edge industry technology into products for use in *FIRST* Robotics Competition. Under Scott's direction, Kauai Labs has developed the nav6, navX-MXP and navX-Micro Robotics Navigation Sensors now in use by many *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams and is actively developing next-generation products.



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Eva Lu, Scouting Lead, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Eva, a senior, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 3 years. During the Unified Robotics season, she worked one-on-one with Kendall Foster, a senior diagnosed with autism and significant learning and behavior challenges. Eva has learned about inclusion and acceptance from working with Kendall, and the two have become great friends through this experience.

Ammi Ludwick, Program Director, Aspirations in Computing Recognitions

Ammi is the Recognitions Program Director for the Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Program of the National Center for Women and IT. Ammi is responsible for the direction, maintenance and implementation of all the awards and recognitions AiC offers in the K-20 sphere. She works closely with the Regional Affiliate Managers, the AiC Community Manager and the AspireIT K-12 Outreach Program team to develop ways to honor the growing Aspirations in Computing and Educator Communities. With 75 regional Affiliates, 10,000 technically inclined women and 3,500 adults.

Laurie Machida, Public Relations Member, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Laurie, a junior, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 1 year. Laurie was attracted to the team and robotics program because of its business aspects of writing and marketing. However, after volunteering for Unified Robotics, she is excited to speak to others in promoting the rapid growth of this one-of-a-kind program.

Greg McKaskle, Chief Software Architect, National Instruments

Greg is a seasoned LabVIEW *FIRST* Robotics Competition veteran. He has been a part of the NI/*FIRST* partnership since its beginnings in 2008 and a member of the NI LabVIEW team for over 25 years. He currently holds the title of Chief Software Architect. Greg's robotics expertise covers a broad range of topics including vision, communications, and general programming.

Brad Miller, Director *FIRST*/WPI Research Group, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

As a member of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Control Systems Team, Brad has been active in the development of WPIlib for C++ and Java and all the associated tools since it was first released for the cRIO in 2009. He has also been a mentor for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 190 since 2001.

Gaige Moore, Primary Designer, Programmer and Driver, *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 247

Gaige is a senior at Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta, NJ. Her interest in robotics began in grade school when she joined an after school *FIRST* LEGO League club. She joined Pope John's *FIRST* Tech Challenge team 247 as a freshman. Gaige quickly became the primary builder, programmer, and driver on her team. Because of her leadership, Gaige earned a varsity letter in robotics her first year, which is unusual for freshmen on Pope John's teams. She extensively mentors an area grade school *FIRST* LEGO League team and works tirelessly on other outreach activities. Her accomplishments lead to Gaige becoming one of New Jersey's two *FIRST* Tech Challenge Dean's List Finalists in 2015, an honor only about a hundred students in the United States achieved. This is her second year presenting a talk at the *FIRST* World Championship Conference. She will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute this fall and will be studying biomedical engineering.



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Jennifer Navarrete, Social Media, Communications and Outreach Team, *FIRST* in Texas

Jennifer is an award winning social media community builder. She was introduced to *FIRST* in 2013 when she was asked to develop the social media and online communications for the Alamo Region of *FIRST*. This role quickly branched out to include outreach training teams on the practical uses of social media for their robotics team. In 2015 she began working at the state level with *FIRST* in Texas and is thrilled to be able to connect with and teach teams from across the Lone Star State.

Dr. Catherine Olkin, Deputy Project Scientist NASA's New Horizons Mission to Pluto and Deputy Principal Investigator of NASA's Lucy mission to Explore Trojans (*FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 1619, *FIRST* LEGO League Teams 24087, 24088, 24089)

Dr. Cathy Olkin is a planetary scientist at Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, CO. Her main topic of research is the outer solar system, specifically planetary atmospheres and surfaces. She is the Deputy Project Scientist for NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Deputy Principal Investigator for NASA's Lucy mission to study Trojan asteroids. Working on spacecraft missions combines her background in engineering with her scientific interests. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT and Stanford, respectively, and a Ph.D. in Planetary Science from MIT. Previously she worked at the Jet Propulsion Lab doing interplanetary navigation for the Cassini mission and at Lowell Observatory investigating the rings of Saturn and measuring the mass ratio of Charon (Pluto's largest moon) to Pluto using data from the Hubble Space Telescope. Cathy has been a *FIRST* mentor (*FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Robotics Competition) since 2009. This year she mentored 3 *FIRST* LEGO League teams and 1 *FIRST* Robotics Competition team. Additionally, she is a popular speaker giving public talks about NASA missions around the world, including TedX and multiple times as a guest on NPR Science Friday.

J. Stephen Pendergrast, Teacher/Robotics Mentor, Pope John XXIII High School

Stephen has a Master's degree in Computer Science from Rutgers University and was a distinguished software engineer at Bell Laboratories before entering the world of high tech entrepreneurship. He has started and sold several Internet companies, including what was at the time the largest eBook retailer in the United States (to Barnes and Nobel in 2008). He is a published author, both in fiction and nonfiction, and has several patents pending and issued in algorithmic genomics. He has coached robotics for eleven years, including *FIRST* LEGO League, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, *FIRST* Robotics Competition, and space based Zero Robotics teams. During his coaching career, many of his teams have qualified for national and international championships. He currently teaches AP Physics and Honors Robotics at Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta, NJ, where he also coaches the school's five *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams and one Zero Robotics team. He frequently presents workshop material on *FIRST* Tech Challenge topics in his home state of New Jersey.



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Santosh Prabhu, Director of Research and Development, Abbott Structural

Santosh is the Director of Research and Development at Abbott Structural Heart. He is currently leading the team responsible for the development of the innovative minimally invasive catheter based devices for heart valve repair. Prior to starting at Abbott Structural Heart, Santosh worked at Abbott Vascular where he was responsible for development of novel cardiovascular stents for treatment of coronary and peripheral arterial disease. He has over 20 issued patents related to the cardiovascular medical devices and has published extensively in peer reviewed journals in the fields of cardiology, biomedical devices, biomaterials and drug delivery. Santosh holds a bachelor's degree in Aerospace engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India, a master's degree in Aerospace engineering from the University of Alabama, and a doctorate degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Delaware.

Christine Rath, Lead Associate and Recruiting Manager, Booz Allen Hamilton

Christine has 15 years of experience in talent acquisition, and manages talent attraction strategies and programs targeting top talent with highly sought-after STEM skills. Chris also serves as Booz Allen's Recruiting Lead for the Central South Region.

Allen Saakyan, Founder, Producer, Host, Eureka! Science Comedy

Allen is a science communicator, hard-core nerd, and emotional intelligence wizard. He inspires people to achieve their dreams via breakthroughs in self-actualization. Allen's talks are interactive, relatable, educational, and entertaining.

Madeleine Schwitters, Founder, Kids and Tech, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Madeleine, a junior, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 3 years. Madeleine enjoys all facets of engineering and wanted to share the joy of robotics with her cousin who has special needs. After numerous roadblocks and without the support of the local school, Madeleine formed her own Unified Robotics team with her cousin. This experience not only allowed her cousin to experience robotics but it strengthened their family bond.

Heidi Sipe, Superintendent, Umatilla School District, Oregon 2016 Superintendent of the Year

Heidi serves as the Superintendent of the Umatilla School District and was named Oregon's 2016 Superintendent of the Year. She has a deep passion for rural education, especially for students of poverty. She is committed to ensuring that all students have opportunities to achieve their future dreams by establishing a strong foundation of skills through effective instruction delivered by dedicated and skilled staff. She believes extended learning activities are the key to student success beyond high school and appreciates the role *FIRST* plays in helping students dream new dreams.



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Rotem Stahl, *FIRST* Alumni, Yeruham *FIRST*LEGO League and *FIRST* Robotics Competition

Rotem, is an alum from *FIRST* Robotics Competition team 3211 and now mentors the team. She has been a key factor in the success of the robotics programs Yeruham runs in various locations. Deserted suburban towns of Israel, foreign programs in Ethiopia and more, all exist now thanks to her expertise and hard work.

Jaeyun Stella Seo, Director of Operations, STREAM Education Foundation

Stella is a *FIRST* alum and 2014 Dean's List Finalist. She competed in *FIRST* LEGO League for four years and in *FIRST* Tech Challenge for three (Team 7591 Voltage of Imagination, Team 548 Geek Squad). Robotics has been the common thread in her life, weaving together eight years and twelve seasons' worth of chapters and stories together. It's helped her understand her identity a little better as a queer woman of color in STEM. She currently studies bioengineering and business administration at UC Berkeley as a Regents' Scholar. She is also the founder and Director of Operations of STREAM Education Foundation, a 501(c) nonprofit organization dedicated to the progress and proliferation of education in science, technology, robotics, engineering, the arts, and mathematics, especially in underserved communities.

Chuck Stephens, STEM Coordinator, Pasco County Libraries, Pasco County, Florida, Coach *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 5276 Edgar Allan Ohms & *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 2845 Team Duct Tape

Chuck Stephens makes stuff and likes to show others how to do the same. He is a consultant with Eureka!Factory, providing staff training and makerspace services to libraries throughout central Florida. He also works for the Pasco County Library System, building makerspaces, developing STEM programs and coaching and mentoring several *FIRST* robotics teams. He believes whole heartedly that he has the best job ever!

Connor Still, Scouting Lead, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2102

Connor has been involved in *FIRST* Robotics for four years and a member of Team Paradox for three. He has served as the team's Scouting Lead for the past two years and a key contributor to all aspects of our scouting application and its use by both the scouting team and the build/drive teams for match and alliance analytics. Connor is a Junior and aspires to pursue a career in either computer science or software design.

Mark Taylor, Kettering University Program Director for the *FIRST* Robotic Community Center

Mark is a retired high school and college Physics and Chemistry instructor. He has been a Robotics Mentor for 14 years working with many *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams including teams: 33,65,314,397,3450. He is currently working with *FIRST* Robotics Competition Teams: 322,894,1506,5512,5527,5561,5574,5660,3 *FIRST* Tech Challenge Teams, and 6 *FIRST* LEGO League teams.



2017 *FIRST*[®] Championship Conference

Presented by Southwest, ViaSat & Walt Disney Imagineering

PRESENTER BIOS

HOUSTON

Mikel Thompson, Coach, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Mikel Thompson, technology teacher of King's High School, has been the Head Coach of 4911 CyberKnights for 8 years. He participated as a mentor in Unified Robotics and quickly grew passionate about the program as he saw the dramatic impact it had on all the students involved. Mikel has also been helping connect *FIRST* with Special Olympics[®] to grow the program to a national level.

Terri Willingham, Author, *Makerspaces in Libraries (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014)*, Regional Director, *FIRST* in Central Florida

Currently Regional Director for *FIRST* STEM education programs in central Florida and a Creative Partner with Eureka! Factory, Terri works as a consultant helping libraries and other organizations develop makerspaces and creative programming, including the development of *FIRST* K-12 programs within library systems. She is also a 10 yr. + veteran *FIRST* mentor and coach.

Jane Yi, Public Relations and Outreach Lead, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Jane, a senior, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 2 years. This past year, Jane has organized and participated in several outreach events for Unified Robotics such as the Washington State Championship or Engineer IT! Weekend Showcase at the Pacific Science Center. She believes in the power of collaboration and acceptance that Unified Robotics represents.

Joanne Yi, Chairman's Presenter, *FIRST* Robotics Team 4911, CyberKnights

Joanne, a sophomore, has been a member of 4911 CyberKnights for 2 years. After seeing the impact Unified Robotics had on her teammates, she was inspired to volunteer at Unified Robotics events such as the Microsoft Kickoff, Pacific Science Center State Championship, and Pacific Science Center Engineer IT! Showcase. Joanne is proud to represent Unified Robotics as a Public Relations member of the CyberKnights Business Team.

Dr. Yao Zhang, CEO, RoboTerra Inc.

Yao Zhang, named a 2016 Young Global Leader by the Davos World Economic Forum, "25 Women in Robotics" in 2015 by RoboHub, and a Columbia University alumina. Founder and CEO of RoboTerra, Inc., she has been working in the education and technology field for more than a decade. RoboTerra, recognized as the annual "Star Company" at the 2014 World Learning Technology Summit and a "Top 30 Innovations Company" at Silicon Valley Innovations Forum, provides a cloud-based learning solution connecting educational robots built by students and respective course modules, which allows students a rewarding and fun learning experiences. The RoboTerra Global Impact Grant has been supporting more than 40 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams, coaches, mentors and regional competitions with \$50,000 endowment funding and thousands of hours of volunteering work from the RoboTerra engineers who are graduates from top institutions and industry leaders and advocates for robotics education worldwide