

The Heroes of Tomorrow are proud to nominate Mr. Adam Freeman for the 2013 GM Mentor of the Year Award. Freeman is a GM employee and has been a mentor on team 67 for 9 years. In this time, he has helped our team achieve much success and has been an inspiration to the students that he works with.

Freeman is a strong leader who has taken on various difficult roles as a mentor. Perhaps the most notable role is that of our drive coach. Freeman has functioned as our drive coach for 4 years. In this short time, Freeman has coached our team to countless wins at local district events, 4 Michigan State Championship victories and an impressive 2 World Championship wins. Freeman quickly found his Zen as our drive coach, easily establishing procedures for deciding on game strategies and making sure that he and the students on the drive team remained calm in the heat of the competition. Jason Droulliard, a senior who has been a member of the drive team for 2 years states, "Once I told Adam that I had anxiety issues, he worked with me to deal with the large levels of stress that come with being a part of the drive team."

Freeman also works closely with former GM Mentor of the Year winner, Jim Meyer, as one of our head design engineers. Freeman works closely with Meyer as well as a small group of students in CAD to design robot components to be sent

to the mechanical build group for assembly. The 2013 game challenge was very testing for the Heroes of Tomorrow. We spend much time contemplating the best way to build a successful robot to accomplish each game task. This put our team way behind our typical build schedule and caused many team members to put in numerous extra hours to complete the project. Freeman served as an example for many students and mentors alike during this time, making sure that every job was being completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Freeman is extremely dedicated and always looks for the best in all of those he comes into contact with. When we received harsh criticism from another team on a FIRST social media sight, Freeman quickly deterred the criticism and made sure that all team members were aware of what was happening. He also made sure that everyone on the team knew how to handle situations like this during competition. This fact is best stated by mentor Jason Bretzlaff, "Adam does a great job as our team's ambassador in so many ways, deflecting criticism and absorbing praise with patience and humbleness."

Due to his passion and motivation, Adam Freeman is the perfect candidate for the GM Mentor of the Year Award. Freeman shows us what being a "Hero of Tomorrow" truly means.



The Heroes of Tomorrow are proud to nominate Lori Gleason, someone who has dedicated the better part of 17 years to our team, for the 2013 Woodie Flowers Award.

During the day, Ms. Gleason teaches physics and chemistry at Huron Valley Schools, one of our main sponsors. In her spare time, however, she is an absolute robot aficionado providing an example for others to look upon with pride, and admiration. Ms. Gleason sweats all the "small" stuff, allowing everyone else on the team to enjoy the "fun" stuff. Most members on the team don't come close to the time Ms. Gleason spends making everything work, from student organization to building parts in the machine shop, Ms. Gleason is the epitome of commitment. So much so, that team members often joke about finding the secret area where Ms. Gleason hangs her hammock in the shop! Someday we may find it.

In the off season, Ms. Gleason conducted a variety of robotics related workshops. She even taught herself to program in LabView just to teach it to others. She also spent countless hours organizing fundraisers and providing opportunities for the students to earn community service time while reaching out to potential new members and sponsors.

During the build season, Ms. Gleason works closely with new team members. As one of our machining mentors, she teaches students how to use the mill, lathe and other machines in the shop. She also makes sure that students develop enough expertise to operate the machines independently, safely and efficiently, making sure team members thoroughly learn all they need to know. Ms. Gleason exudes perfection; she pays significant attention to every detail of everything she does which helps her students learn more precisely why what they are building is important as well as how it works.

During the competition season, Ms. Gleason organizes a number of team meetings for students and parents, making sure that each member and their families know the logistics and are included in the support roles. Ms. Gleason consistently ensures that all team members are aware of what is going on in terms of our meeting schedules and what we can expect at each event.

Ms. Gleason is an inspiration to all who she has touched. As said by senior team member Emma Beattie, "Ms. Gleason's dedication to what she does is very inspiring to me; she is definitely someone I look up to as a role model for my future." Ms. Gleason works very hard to show students that they can do whatever they set their minds to. The 2013 game proved to be very testing for our team.

Even coming up with a conceptual design took significantly longer than expected.

During this time, Ms. Gleason was always making sure that we had the bigger picture in mind and that even though it was hard to visualize at the time, our hard work would pay off soon.

Because of her extreme dedication and hard work, students and mentors alike strongly agree that Ms. Lori Gleason best represents the spirit of the Woodie Flowers Award.