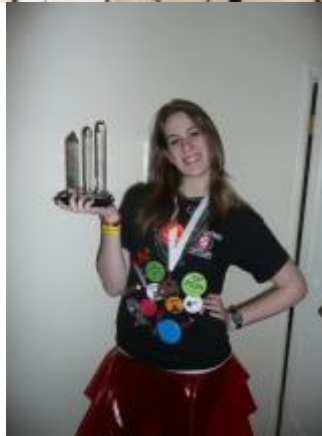


Spotlight on Michelle Roehl



We are so excited to catch up with Michelle Roehl, a *FIRST* alumni from Illinois now working at IBM. Michelle was on team 1525 The WarBots for four years, and now works at IBM and on the weekends' volunteers for *FIRST* North Carolina as a quer for the past two season.

What is one highlight from your time on the team?:

Winning the Engineering Inspiration award at the MidWest Regional in 2007 and going to Championships in Atlanta. We couldn't find our coach but had his button, so I got to go on the field for the first time and it was an incredible experience.

What are the top three skills you learned from your FIRST experience that has made an impact on your current job?:

Teamwork, making lists/plans and keeping them updated, meeting new people (you never know what you're going to learn from the people you meet)

How has *FIRST* impacted your choices (school, career, etc...)?:

I wrote about *FIRST* in all my college essays and it's pretty much the reason I went to Purdue University. When I struggled in my mechanical engineering classes and sought out a career counselor, she had me look at why I had picked ME and I said: "because I built robots in high

school." However, looking back, I realized I was in charge of the people building robots. I made sure we had the materials, everyone had tasks, and that we were fed. I changed my major to Industrial Engineering and I have never looked back. *FIRST* is about so much more than just robots and I truly believe that.

What words of wisdom do you have for current *FIRST*ers?:

Make sure you take care of yourself during build season. I didn't and had various health problems after every build season. As much as you think sleep isn't necessary, it is. Also, pizza cannot be eaten for all meals for 6 weeks. Just don't do it. But have fun! I wish there was *FIRST* for adults because there is no program like it. Take advantage of your time in the program to learn as much as you can and meet as many people as you can! You never know where they will go and when you might run into them in the future! (When I moved to NC, the only person I knew in this state was a guy I met at Championships in 2007 who I had stayed in touch with. He was my first (*FIRST*) friend here and helped me settle into my new home halfway across the country from my family and friends)



