

# Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – November 2022

**Equity** – Treating everyone fairly, having equal opportunities and removing barriers

**Diversity** – The way we are all different

**Inclusion** – Creating space for everyone where differences are embraced

## Team Share from #9008 G-Force Robotics - Girls Teach Tech Partnership Helps Girls SOAR

Written By: Katlyn N. and Sloan M.

G-Force Robotics FRC Team 9008 is an all-girl, community-based team located in Clayton, North Carolina. We at G-Force Robotics have partnered with the Clayton library and Oak Ridge Computer Science Girls (ORCSGirls) out of Tennessee to offer free hybrid Girls Teach Tech classes as a part of our #FIRSTLikeAGirl and #GForceGirlsSOAR initiatives. In the simplest form, we offer these classes as a way to give back to our community. These courses are open to 5th-8th grade girls and this year our classes teach them everything from simple coding and 3D printing to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence. We started doing these Girls Teach Tech classes as a way to inspire younger girls and teach them about STEM. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with ORCSGirls and host these classes for such a great cause, and more importantly, to inspire and encourage the next generation of women in STEM!

Our GTT classes fall under one of our main outreach initiatives, G-Force Girls SOAR. SOAR stands for Success through Outreach, Advocacy and Robotics. We do many things under this initiative in addition to GTT, such as a STEM literacy project, the President's Volunteer Service Award program, and participation in the National STEM Advocacy Conference.

If your team has something they'd like to share, send them to the ED&I team at [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com)

## From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! - Join The More Than Movement - #IAmMoreThan

We talked to kids, experts, and parents all over the country to learn about what the current barriers to success were. What we heard the most was that many kids learn to doubt themselves because of the fear of judgment or lack of acceptance.

This insight drove us to create our new campaign, *More Than*.

*More Than* focuses on dismantling labels and promoting self-esteem through STEM-related activities.

At *FIRST*<sup>®</sup>, we want EVERY kid to believe in themselves and know that they are *More Than* the stereotypes or 'boxes' society has placed them in.

Together, we can inspire kids everywhere to take pride in being exactly who they are.

Join the *More Than* Movement by visiting [www.morethanrobots.org](http://www.morethanrobots.org) and check out our [social media toolkit](#) for graphics, videos, and sample messaging to help share the PSA and your *More Than* story.

Read more: <https://community.firstinspires.org/join-the-more-than-movement>

## November Events:

**Native American Heritage Month:** Celebrates the culture and heritage of individuals who deeply enrich the United States.

**November** - Month-long fundraiser for men's issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide

**October 31<sup>st</sup> - November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – All Saints Day/All Souls Day/Día de los Muertos: commemorates those who have passed away in the Christian faith and Mexican and Aztec communities

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** – International Day for Tolerance (United Nations): founded by the UN to promote respect for various religions, languages, ethnicities, and cultures

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** – Dutch American Heritage Day: established to celebrate the longstanding friendship between the U.S. and the Netherlands

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Transgender Day of Remembrance (LGBTQ+): seeks to remember those who were murdered due to transphobia

## Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Real Engineers - Career Case Studies:

### Nargiza - Medical Imaging



My name is Nargiza, and I'm a postdoctoral researcher at the University College London. I work in medical imaging in the computer science department in the engineering faculty. My background is as an applied mathematician. So you could say that I didn't choose to become an engineer, but I do love the fact that the work that I do helps people, and that's really important to me.

Learn more: <https://neonfutures.org.uk/case-study/nargiza-medical-imaging/>

### ED&I Retention and Participation Tips: *Rotate roles for adults.*

Rotating roles can be a good strategy for Coaches, Mentors, and Volunteers as well. If only female Coaches provide meals for your team, you send a hidden message that women are nurturing but men are not. Even female Mentors who are engineers have reported being prevented from doing technical work by male Mentors.

Read more: <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/training-equity-diversity-inclusion>

### The **FIRST** NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com)

We are a team of coaches/mentors who want to help create a community and culture of people who embrace the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, who want to develop themselves, and who understand that growth and diversity of all types lead to team excellence.

*Anisha Patel - The Pitt Pirates 2642*  
*Dave Lashley (he/him) - Team SPORK 3196*

*Linda Whipker - Team PyroTech 3459*  
*Melissa "Bee" Bube (they/she) - Girls on Fire 5679*

All Editions are Available Online at: <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/belonging-newsletter>