COURTNEY THURSTON

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EXPERIENCE

General Robotics Systems Intern

Near Earth Autonomy

Summer 2014

Autonomous Aerial Cargo/Utility System Program

- Primarily working on the mechanical and systems engineering teams to develop autonomous cargo delivery systems for the Navy, with the long run goal of enabling autonomous casualty evacuation. Intelligent Autonomous Aerial Vehicles in the National Airspace
- Working to enable integration of UAS in the NAS as part of an SBIR with NASA Langley.

Rules & Public Relations Lead

FIRST Robotics Competition

Sept 2013 – Present

• Engineering ground robots with Normality Zero as a competitor in the FIRST Robotics Competition. 2014 Lenepe-Seneca District Event Champions.

Team Lead

Real World Design Challenge

Sept 2011 – Present

- Engineering small unmanned aerial systems for applications in precision agriculture. Previously developed a sUAS for search and rescue, and a light sport aircraft for cross-country flight.
- 2012 State Champions, 2012 National Runner-Up; 2013 State Champions, 2013 National Runner-Up;
 2014 State Champions, National results pending.

Team Lead FIRST Lego League Sept 2010 – Jan 2013

- Engineered ground robots with Robotron Robotics as a competitor in the FIRST Lego League.
- Body Forward Teamwork and Collaboration, Innovative Solution Award recipient; Food Factor Team Lead, Research Award recipient; Senior Solutions Team and Programming Lead, 3rd Place All-Around.

Additional Experience

Accessible Technology

 Volunteering as a project contributor to OpenHatch, a non-profit dedicated to matching prospective free software contributors with communities, tools, and education. Volunteered to develop components of a business case for the mathematics software startup Miyagi, which aims to teach children to solve one-variable equations through dance by utilizing the gaming peripheral Kinect. ITU North American Ambassador for the International Young Innovators Competition.

Women in Science

 National Center for Women and Information Technology official Aspirations in Computing Award Social Media Contributor; The Scientista Foundation Online Community Manager; executive on ProjectCSGIRLS; co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Magikstra; toolkit development team member on the International Women's Hackathon Student Planning Committee.

EDUCATION

Harrisburg, PA Commonwealth Connections Academy

Fall 2011 – Present

• 4.42 weighted CGPA, 3.987 unweighted CGPA, 3.986 unweighted CGPA (core only), class rank: 1/848

ADDITIONAL HONORS

 Code.org Student of the Week; 2014 Grace Hopper Celebration Scholar; 2014 United Way Leader of Tomorrow Award Winner; 2014 Keds Brave Career Grant Recipient; 2014 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award National Winner; 2013 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award Pennsylvania Affiliate Winner; 2013 Discus Awards National Finalist; AP Scholar; Distinguished Honor Roll.