

# Courtney Thurston

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REDACTED FOR ONLINE | REDACTED FOR ONLINE | thurscon@gmail.com

## Education

**2011-2015 | COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS ACADEMY (CCA) | 4.3 CUMULATIVE GPA, CLASS RANK: TOP 1%**

- Related coursework: AP Physics, AP Computer Science, AP Statistics, AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, AP English Language & Composition, AP Psychology, AP United States Government.

## Experience

**CCA INNOVATORS TEAM LEAD | REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE | SEPTEMBER 2011 – PRESENT**

- Designing airplanes as a competitor in the Real World Design Challenge. Presently serving as team lead for the CCA Innovators. Primarily responsible for research, systems engineering, documentation, and aircraft design.
- 2011– 2012 Light Sport Aircraft – State Champions, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Championships. 2012 Cessna 2<sup>nd</sup> Place National Aviation award recipient.
- 2012 – 2013 Search and Rescue with Unmanned Aircraft – State Champions, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Championships. 2013 Cessna 2<sup>nd</sup> Place National Aviation award recipient.
- 2013 – 2014 Precision Agriculture with Unmanned Aircraft – currently in development.

**NORMALITY ZERO ROBOTICS/PR LEAD | FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION | SEPTEMBER 2013 – PRESENT**

- Designing robots with Normality Zero as a competitor in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Presently serving as the Public Relations Lead for the team.

**ROBOTRON ROBOTICS TEAM/PROGRAMMING LEAD | FIRST LEGO LEAGUE | SEPTEMBER 2010 – JANUARY 2013**

- Designed robots with Robotron Robotics as a competitor in the FIRST Lego League. Served as team lead from 2011 to 2013 and lead programmer from 2012 to 2013.
- Body Forward Teamwork and Collaboration & Innovative Solution Award Recipient, Food Factor Team Lead & Research Award Recipient, Senior Solutions Team and Programming Lead & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place All-Around Award Recipient.

## VOLUNTEER WORK & INTERNSHIPS

- Volunteering as a project contributor to OpenHatch, a non-profit dedicated to matching prospective free software contributors with communities, tools, and education. Currently working on bug tracking and resolution.
- Volunteering to write grants for the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg, a non-profit organization that seeks to engage the public in global affairs discussions.
- Volunteering 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 using the gaming peripheral Kinect.

## Other Awards and Honors

- 2013 – 2014 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award National Competition Winner
- 2012 – 2013 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award Western & Central Pennsylvania Competition Winner
- 2012 – 2013 Discus Awards National Finalist