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Sedat Yalçın is an exceptional figure in the lives of his students, and in the FIRST community. He is much more than an average CS teacher, offering a unique blend of resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and empathy to the FIRST advocates. As the past-head of computer sciences, he has transformed his office into a hub of inspiration and motivation, where students are eager to enter and reluctant to leave. Through his innovative approach to teaching and spreading the FIRST mission, he has transformed a traditional classroom into a dynamic learning environment for his students, empowering us to tap into our full potential and grow, free from the constraints of the conventional teacher-student hierarchy. He remains as an optimistic guiding force, placing emphasis on the importance of perseverance over accomplishments in the pursuit of success.

He aims to provide us the space, resources and freedom to learn at our own pace internalizing the core values of FIRST, rather than focusing on the awards or recognitions we might receive. Sedat is the mentor who recruits students to discover their interests, researches thoroughly and constructs interdisciplinary research and development projects with his students, overseeing approximately 2 research papers to be published in IEEE or ACM conferences annually: spreading FIRST through his global network of researchers.

He introduces his field to his students so passionately that 92% of his students pursue higher education in STEM fields in top institutions like Stanford, Princeton and CMU. He is the kind of mentor that helps other teams in regionals with their technical issues yet never lays a hand on our projects, merely gives us clues on how to solve it, and guides us on a path to comprehend our own mistakes. He teaches us how to cope in times of turmoil, allowing us to take full responsibility of our work. Sedat motivates us to try and fail, but then always learn and repeat on our own, yet is always present to step in incase we face an emergency or need further assistance.

He ensures balanced gender demographics in our lab, and works to increase girls' participation in FIRST. In 2016, he introduced our team to Technovation and guided them to establish it in Turkey. He has been a Chapter Ambassador ever since. In 2020, he guided our team to earn the accreditation from the Fab Foundation and become the first and only FabLab within a highschool in Turkey, presenting his students the opportunity to gain hands-on quick prototyping and manufacturing experience with CNC's, laser cutters, 3D printers, PCB engravers and microprocessors.

He connects with his students and transforms the lab into a safe place for his team: even a decade after graduating, his students annually visit him, still asking for advice regarding their initiatives, start-ups, even personal lives. He finds happiness in what he does, and so even his presence motivates the team to do more, learn more, and never give up.