

Participating in FIRST Robotics has established a foundation for me to attain knowledge to pursue my career goals of being an entrepreneurial innovator. I have received vital interpersonal skills by collaborating with others and being involved with hands on robotics practices.

With three robotics subdivisions, I've established myself within each group. As the school Varsity team's Hardware Project Coordinator, I've experienced the technical and managerial aspects of robotics. As the coordinator, I led many other roboticists. I made sure to assign people to manufacture parts, whiteboard designs, and 3D model mechanisms. This allowed me to learn the process to ensure a positive environment for collaborative success. I became coordinator after demonstrating competence in technical skills. Robotics' open creative space has adhered me to an innovative mindset. What others used as a door stopper, I saw a frame for an active gear pick up mechanism. These creative ideas define how I approach any problem.

I act as team grant writer, contacting businesses to market our 300 member organization. A successful fundraising season is imperative to allow the organization to re-run their annual 6 figure budget. Through outreach, I have realized that knowing the audience research is critical for marketing. While talking with Panda Express executives I asked them about their recent corporate activities before prompting for a sponsorship, while, when advertising to Seagate Technologies, I took a more direct approach. Each call builds my business communicative skills, strengthening my public speaking and marketing abilities to use for the real world.

I also serve as the team robot driver. There's an immense amount of pressure and responsibility for drivers, as hundreds of opponents yell at you to decrease your competitive morale. However, driving numerous tournaments, I've become immune to negativity and built a strong threshold to the stressful competition. This ensures my ability to perform at my competitive best anywhere.

Robotics has given me the unique opportunity to gain technical, entrepreneurial, and interpersonal skills successful innovators need to strive. With 3 years of hands-on experience, robotics has built a foundation I can trust to lead me to prosper through my future.