

Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – November 2024

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.

The 5th Annual Doyenne East Event!

18 teams of all girls and non-binary students competed in the 5th annual Doyenne East competition this October. A dream sparked by students on Falcon Fury (previously Green Hope Falcons), has soared to new heights, and spread to include a secondary event in the west that was held earlier this year. With the help of other teams, each year, this event has been nothing short of a success, showcasing students' talents with the overall message of female empowerment.

During the Doyenne East event, 2024 FIRST NC Alumni award recipient, Nicole Allen was asked to be the guest speaker to share her experience through FIRST and what it means to be a female in the engineering field. With an audience of over 100 people, she shared how becoming the first female engineering lead on her team, the Pitt Pirates, gave her the confidence to follow her passions, earn a degree, and become a manufacturing engineer for Hyster-Yale. Nicole shared "I know being a woman in a male dominated field can be hard. I am the only female engineer in my department, despite that, I have carved a place for myself and stood my ground every day. Because of this, I am a highly trusted member of the department. This is something you all are going to do today, and something you will have to keep doing. Stand your ground. Trust yourself, your knowledge, and don't let anyone put seeds of doubt in your mind." Nicole goes on to provide words of encouragement as the teams compete, to lift each other up, celebrate successes, learn from failure and create connections with those who can be resources in their futures.

The day was filled with laughter, joy, and the usual competition nerves, however, it was nothing short of an amazing experience according to newcomers in attendance.

To round off the competition, 1st seed alliance led by East Bots and joined by GearCats and Falcon Fury took the title for Doyenne East Champions! The RotoRaptors won the spirit award and their lead mentor, Anne Finch was awarded the Doyenne Inspiration award for her efforts of spreading female empowerment throughout her team and community!

Congratulations to all those that competed in the Doyenne West and East competitions. Your bravery and passion to grow in a more male-dominated field and let your talent show is an inspiration to all and we can't wait to see what the future holds for each one of you!

How do you and your team make members, coaches and mentors feel they belong? Do you have tips for other teams on how to include people and help them feel they really belong?

Send them to FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! – Gracious Professionalism and Ethics

Gracious Professionalism® is a key part of every *FIRST*® program. I've introduced the concept to kids as young as first grade as part of a *FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore team. Doing good work, trying our best, and treating everyone with respect and grace are straightforward concepts for young kids to understand.

FIRST® Tech Challenge Sr. Program Director Rachel Moore spoke about Gracious Professionalism as part of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Kickoff a few weeks ago. If you've not yet seen it, I encourage you to check it out and maybe watch and discuss it as part of a team meeting (you can find it at around seven minutes into the [FIRST Tech Challenge Kickoff Broadcast](#)).

Read more by Collin Fultz, Senior Director, *FIRST* Robotics Competition [HERE](#)

November Holidays and Events:

November is National Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native Heritage Month

November 1: All Saints Day honors all saints and martyrs in the Christian faith

November 2: Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos) Prayer and remembrance of friends and family members who have died

November 2 (sundown to sundown): Birth of Báb is a Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of the prophet Báb.

November 3: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh is a Holy Day celebrating the rebirth of the world through the love of God

November 5: Guy Fawkes Day, British, celebrated on November 5, commemorating the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605

November 9: World Freedom Day is a United States federal observance declared by then-President George W. Bush to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe.

November 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.

November 11: Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces

November 13: World Kindness Day offers an opportunity to highlight good deeds in the community and the common thread of kindness.

November 16: Dutch-American Heritage Day

November 16: International Day for Tolerance

November 16: Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed on November 20, 2024, is dedicated to honoring the memory of transgender individuals whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

November 20: World Children's Day promotes the welfare of children around the world. The day also spreads awareness for issues that children face and celebrates international togetherness.

November 23: Thanksgiving Day in the United States is a holiday on the fourth Thursday of November

November 25: Day of the Covenant, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the One to whom His followers should turn after His passing.

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

November 27: Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921. February 26 – 29, 2024 Ayyám-i-Há, a period of celebration devoted to charity, gift-giving and festivities prior to the annual period of fasting.

If you spot an error in the newsletter please email us at: FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Engineering Doyenne - Hertha Ayrton



Mathematician, inventor, and friend of Marie Curie, Hertha Ayrton was an outspoken advocate for women's rights in science and in the voting booth. Her Ayrton fan dispelled toxic fumes from WWI trenches, and her research on London's lamp functioning landed her the first Hughes Medal awarded to a woman. Although her inventions impressed her peers and saved the lives of soldiers, few of her colleagues supported her efforts for women's equality during her lifetime.

The daughter of a Polish watchmaker, Hertha was born in 1854 as Phoebe Sarah Marks. She had a natural gift for tinkering, which won her the family nickname "Beautiful Genius." When she was just seven, her father died and left her mother in poverty with eight young children. Still, her mother recognized Hertha's intellectual talents and so, when an opportunity arose for Hertha to go to London and live with her aunt who ran a school, her mother allowed her to go. She studied mathematics, Latin, French and music until, when she was 16, she was obliged to start working as a live-in governess to send money home to her family in Portsea.

Read more **HERE** – [Engineering Doyenne – Hertha Ayrton](#)

The Doyenne Initiative: Creating a Better World, One Female Leader At a Time.

Doyenne Initiative is an international nonprofit organization focused on cultivating female experts to take on leadership roles in industry, education, government and beyond.

We help capable, career-driven women become experts in specialized fields through scholarships for graduate level education, work experience and mentorship. The Doyenne Initiative aims to create a sustainable ecosystem of women that supports its own future operations and empowers women to continue the change that started with them.

Read more **HERE**: [The Doyenne Initiative](#)

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: 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 (she/her) - The Pitt Pirates 2642

Dave Lashley (he/him) - Team SPORK 3196

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