

# Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – September 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.

## ***Doyenne Inspiration 2024***

Now in its 5th year, FIRST NC is proud to offer the Doyenne Inspiration off-season event! Founded in 2019 by team 5190, Green Hope Falcons, now Falcon Fury, this event was aimed to serve as more than just another competitive robotics event but as a platform for empowering female and nonbinary students to become leaders in STEM. Since, many teams have assisted in the planning and implementing of this event to ensure its sustainability and to preserve the message of what this competition stands for. Last year, as interest in this event grew and more teams stepped up to assist, Doyenne was offered both in the Eastern and Western parts of NC!

As a spectator, one can see the potential that these female and nonbinary students bring to their teams that may later translate to their abilities in the workforce. As a student, it is a way of boosting self-esteem, acknowledging positive characteristics within oneself, and learning through hands-on experiences. As a mentor or parent, it is a chance to see what you may have taught come to life. A way to see the excitement through the students' accomplishments, and a way to show continued support.

This event is a free event open to all to watch and support the teams. Whether you are a teammate, mentor/coach, parent, teacher, or community member, please come out to support these students!

### **Doyenne Inspiration West**

*September 22, 2024*

*St. Stephens High School*

*Hickory, NC*

### **Doyenne Inspiration East**

*October 19, 2024*

*Overhills High School*

*Spring Lake, NC*

***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](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com) or use this [GOOGLE FORM](#) and we'll include them in upcoming newsletters.

## **From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! – Looking back on the 2024 KitBot & Moving Forward**

Last year, we [*FIRST*] introduced the concept of a KitBot where teams were provided with a basic robot design, parts, and instructions to build a robot tailored to the season's game. We wanted to take some time to share some of the feedback we saw on the 2024 KitBot and some improvements that we are making for the 2025 season.

One of the main goals of the KitBot was to provide a baseline design and resource that helped raise the floor. It was intended to provide a starting point that teams could iterate on and improve. It was specifically designed to not be able to do all the tasks in the game. Based on data provided to us by Team 118, there were 528 KitBots that competed in the 2024 season, or 15% of teams.

More information here - [Looking back on the 2024 KitBot & Moving Forward](#)

## September Holidays and Events:

**This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16th and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended the Spanish dictatorship.**

September 2: Labor Day in the United States honors the contribution that workers have made to the country and is observed on the first Monday of September.

September 6 to 15: Onam (Hinduism) - A harvest festival celebrated in Kerala, India.

September 7: Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu holiday lasting approximately 10 days in which the elephant-headed Hindu god is praised and given offerings.

September 8: International Literacy Day

September 11: Rastafarians celebrate the Ethiopian New Year and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home.

September 15 to 16: Mawlid, Mawlid an-Nabi ash-Sharif, or Eid Milad un Nabi, is the observance of the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

September 16: Mexican Independence Day

September 18: International Equal Pay Day was celebrated for the first time in 2020. It represents the long-standing efforts toward the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.

September 21: International Day of Peace, also officially known as World Peace Day

September 22: Mabon, the second harvest ritual celebrated in Gaelic, Pagan, and Wiccan traditions, is the first day of fall and the celebration of the vernal equinox. The holiday is about gathering wisdom and honoring elders.

September 27: Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross) is a day that commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus. It is celebrated by some Christian denominations.

September 27: World Tourism Day celebrated to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value

September 27: Native American Day is a federal holiday observed annually on the fourth Friday in September in the states of California and Nevada and on the second Monday in October in South Dakota and Oklahoma.

September 28: Teacher's Day in Taiwan honors teachers' contributions to their students and society in general.

September 29: Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is a minor Christian festival dedicated to Archangel Michael that is observed in some Western liturgical calendars.

**If you spot an error in the newsletter please email us at: [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com)**

## Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: #PeopleofSTEAM: Meet Erin



A mechanical engineer by trade, Erin spent many years at NASA and MIT before starting her own business in 2023. Her company, STEAM Power Media, serves as a translator between scientists and engineers and the public. Through digital media she shares STEAM experiences with the world. She works with companies, museums, and science organizations to help share their work and research through articles, videos and social media. Erin enjoys being able to constantly learn and experience a wide variety of science each day. When discussing what it's like working with innovators, scientists and engineers she said, "It feels really meaningful to help the world learn more about them." – Read more - [#PeopleofSTEAM: Meet Erin](#)

## Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Training: *From the UCLA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*

Lesson 5 in the Implicit Bias Video Series from BruinX, the R&D unit within UCLA's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This video discusses the Implicit Association Test ("IAT") and the wealth of data it has generated.

Click here to view: [Implicit Bias | Lesson 5: The IAT](#)

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto: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*

*Linda Whipker (she/her) - Team PyroTech 3459*

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