

Katie Miner

Shortly into her rookie season as a member of FRC Team 1507, The WARLOCKS, Katie Miner demonstrated she would be a likely candidate as a Dean's List Nominee, as she impressed the mentors with her astute observations and insights. Katie began her five year journey in creative problem solving, innovation and design, and interpersonal growth, as a member of the Lockport FIRST Middle School FLL team in 6th grade. She continued to grow with FIRST by participating in FTC and has already made a substantial impact the team and the community. In her freshman FRC season Katie was very involved in our competition scouting program. She volunteered to lead our pit scouting process and prepared and shuttled pre-match scouting summary information to our drive team. As a sophomore this year, Katie has become the student leader of our CAD team which is a critical position since we build our robot directly from the CAD design. As we were planning for this year's kick-off day agenda the mentors selected Katie to lead the game scoring break-out based on her demonstrated leadership abilities. After we had completed our strategy planning, and selected this year's robot concept, Katie worked countless hours on the design details, including staying late even though she was fighting a cold, so that the design would be completed ahead of our project timeline. She is extremely dedicated to the team's success. For example, one Saturday during this build season, after already putting in over 5 hours working on CAD and having to leave for another commitment, she came back to school later that evening (in a snow storm when she was already coming down with a bad cold) when we only had 20 minutes left in the work day to finish some needed design details started by other students so they could get fabricated.

As dedicated as Katie is to the team's goal of designing and building an excellent robot, she is equally enthusiastic about promoting the vision of FIRST and understands that Team 1507 is about much more than just building a robot. Katie enjoys spreading the FIRST message and has participated in countless presentations at community and sponsor events including ; YMCA Girl Power, Niagara & Erie County Fairs, Buffalo Museum of Science Bubble Bot Day, Charity walks, and GM Buy America Day. She is very comfortable articulating why she likes being a part of a FIRST team, and she can relate equally well with adults or young children. Her enthusiasm and leadership characteristics she demonstrates in preparing for and participating in the team activities is making a significant impact on generating interest in the STEM fields the next generation of younger kids, especially on the girls, who can see her as an outstanding role model.

Katie maintains a 101.4 GPA, placing her 2nd in her sophomore class at Lockport High School, and is taking AP and college level classes in preparation for pursuing a degree in mathematics or statistics at Notre Dame. Katie also excels in other areas, playing percussion in the Wind Ensemble Band and making All County Band the last five years. She is also a key member of the Lockport High School Scholastic Bowl team. On top of excelling in all of these activities, Katie continues to participate in the challenging University of Buffalo Gifted Math Program Monday and Wednesday evenings, which has done since 7th grade. This grant funded program is aimed at challenging the best and brightest high school student minds with higher order mathematics and analysis techniques.

Katie is truly a gracious professional and she understands the opportunities FIRST have given her. She has an outstanding work ethic and has been recognized as a team leader. The team mentors are very happy that we have 2+ more years of time with Katie and we know that her future is bright. We most highly recommend that she be selected to join Dean's List, to honor her as the outstanding role model and ambassador she is for spreading the FIRST message.