

Explain how the student embodies the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition® through the FIRST Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. Please provide examples.

Trent is truly a driving force for the FIRST core values. For example, during the design process Trent ensures that all students have a voice in sharing their ideas, rather than being overshadowed by upperclassmen.

At the Buckeye regional last year, a rookie team was struggling to get their robot code working. Wanting to see this team compete, Trent quickly jumped in and spent an entire day helping them to refactor their code. And rather than just re-writing the code himself, Trent made sure to teach them programming concepts and walked them through the process of re-coding their robot step by step. By the end of the day, this team had a working robot and were even able to use the knowledge they gained to complete a few tasks on their own.

How has the student increased the awareness of FIRST? Describe the student's interests and/or plans to continue to engage with FIRST beyond high school. Please provide examples.

Trent has taken many strides in expanding his commitment in the FIRST programs since joining his FLL team in 5th grade. He has been mentoring his FLL team for 5 years, recently taking over the lead mentor role. He coaches his students on robot design and coding, along with teaching them the FIRST core values. He also volunteers at FLL camps and Mars/Space camps through a local STEM hub, spending a large portion of his summer educating students on FIRST and robotics.

Trent has also begun to volunteer at FIRST events, having most recently been the emcee at the Buffalo FLL champs. Trent plans to continue his mentorship and volunteerism beyond graduation. Trent strides to spread FIRST and STEM to as many people as possible, which is why he invests so much effort into mentoring and volunteering.

How does the student's individual contribution to the team benefit the whole? Please provide examples.

Trent is a core part of our outreach events, helping us organize and coordinate student participation. When our Niagara County Fair event struggled with participation last year, Trent stepped up to improve these numbers by reaching out to students individually and advocating the importance of outreach. He is also pivotal in our fundraising efforts, having helped to organize our annual meat raffle and sold the highest number of tickets by a wide margin along with participating in several other fundraisers.

Most recently, our team faced a challenge with a lack of practice space. Trent went on his own to contact our local 4H club to see if they would be able to lend space to us in order to practice. Trent was successful, and for the first year our team has space for a full practice field.

Describe the students' experience in areas of STEM. This could include but is not limited to skills in engineering, software, CAD, fabrication, etc. Please provide examples.

Trent's determination to learn is best shown through his work in electrical and programming. Ever since he was a freshman, he was always motivated to continue learning and expanding his knowledge. He has amassed a considerable amount of programming experience, including C++, Java, and even C# and Python for his personal projects.

Trent also makes it a priority to teach the younger students how to program the robot to endure a successful transition when he graduates. He's been successful enough that as our lead programmer he doesn't actually write any code anymore, but rather spends his time teaching and coaching others through their assignments. Trent also uses his programming experience to better our imagery team, helping with our website content and teaching our younger students HTML.

Explain the student's leadership to their fellow team members. How do they motivate others? What is their leadership style? Please provide examples.

Since joining our team, Trent has developed himself into a significant leader and motivator on our team. However, the best example of his leadership style is actually from his FLL team mentorship. One of his FLL students was always quiet and shy when interacting with other students, and Trent sat down with her and encouraged her to take a leadership role after noticing her potential. She ultimately was selected as a team leader, and led their innovation project effort to a successful completion.

Trent also exhibits upwards leadership, and when he noticed there was a gap between communication with students and mentors he set out to help solve that problem. Trent proposed to the mentors to create a new student "Communications Director" position, which has been successful in closing that gap.

Please share anything else you would like us to know about the student, including academic performance, specialized skills, or additional extracurricular activities.

Trent maintains a 97 GPA and has taken several honors and AP classes. He takes pride in his schoolwork, and is planning on continuing his education after graduating high school at Virginia Tech to attain an accelerated Masters degree in Computer Science. He hopes to one day work for the Ethereum Foundation of which he has connections with.

Outside of robotics, Trent participates at his school's STEM club and volunteers at the Challenger Learning Center which hosts the FLL team he mentors.