

FIRST isn't about building the best robots, it's about building the best people. No one represents that ideal more than Mr. Chris Miller. He has been a part of Team 4611 since 2014 and his tenure is longer than any other Ozone mentor. Joining Ozone in its second year, Mr. Miller has seen our team go from buying machinery off of Craigslist to leading us to the FIRST World Championship two years in a row. Mr. Miller has undoubtedly shaped Ozone's history as a mentor.

When you take a look at our mentors, there's nobody who shows their inner child more than Mr. Miller. He exuberates a confidence and passion unlike any other. His focus is to learn as much as possible in order to share it with others. Since joining our team in its second year, he's taught hundreds of students and mentors how to use anything from hand tools to shop machinery. Students come in knowing nothing, but he transforms them into skilled engineers and architects, giving them knowledge that typically takes years to learn. His teaching style is different, he wants to guide you through the process, rather than do it for you and expects you to learn. This hands-off approach provides a more effective learning experience. His drive to learn allows students to learn with him and his passion for teaching strengthens every student he engages with. According to our student leadership team, "He pushes all students, whether freshman or seniors, to learn." His conviction to teach the new generation of engineers extends beyond the realm of FIRST, as he's gone above and beyond to give students the opportunity to learn and work in the real world. Students found work in construction and on cars because of Mr. Miller's guidance.

Mr. Miller is one of the most dedicated people you will ever meet, going the extra mile no matter what. Last year, we had massive issues with shipping; we couldn't get our swerves before our competition. So he drove overnight to Michigan and back, getting the parts in time. Along with that he's been driving our trailer to every competition for the past 10 years, including three round trips to the FIRST World Championships. In addition to mentoring Ozone, he's on the pit crew for Head Racing in the NHRA Funny Car series. His dedication has blended his role in racing with robotics as he's taken students under his wing into racing shops and pits. He's helped students make connections working with race teams and in his workplace. His dedication provides students opportunities both at and outside our meetings.

A few years ago, our team adopted the motto "Onward and Upward." This motto is a nod to our team's belief in constant progress. If we could pick one person who exemplifies this motto, it would be Mr. Miller. Between his constant passion for learning, his determination to teach, and his dedication to every aspect of FIRST. We believe that Mr. Miller is an integral part of moving our team *Onward and Upward* throughout the past 11 seasons.

