

Trustworthy, reliable and committed, Ciana always goes above and beyond what is asked or expected. She doesn't allow adversity to slow her down; she uses it as fuel to surge forward, creating a bright future for herself and others around her.

Ciana is integral to the organization and execution of so many of our team's events. Not afraid to do the dirty work, she jumps at every opportunity to help, while building friendships with team members. She is usually the first student at our work sessions and the last to leave, taking the last few minutes left to work on the robot or talk with mentors about upcoming events.

Ciana is committed to FIRST. This year's resume: 12 community FRC robot demonstrations; all 4 FLL summer camps; referee at local FLL Qualifiers and Championships; co-organizer of Razzle Dazzle, our FLL pre-competition scrimmage; only student on the Rah Cha Cha Ruckus Planning Committee, a 35-team offseason event in the Dome Arena. And she didn't let surgery keep her from driving 2 hours away for our 2-day demonstration at the NY State Fair. With a no-excuses attitude, nothing keeps her from her commitments and encourages others to do so as well!

She is also key in running our full-scale competition demonstration, Rochester Rampage, at the Monroe County Fair for 5 days, putting in 40+ hours each year. She is everywhere, driving the robot, talking to spectators about FIRST, playing with kids at the FLL table. She helped plan the Make a Difference Day FIRST Mega Drive, organized student participation at Greentopia festival, and participates in car washes, blood drives, and charity walks.

When she's not spreading FIRST throughout the community, she is helping to improve our team. As a team officer, she helps plan and execute the preseason curriculum with team building and training activities. She runs meetings and is our Communications Coordinator, sending out weekly emails and posting on our forum, keeping our 70-plus members updated with all we do. Several major accomplishments involve team marketing, including creating effective press releases, revamping our entire website, and leading our Chairman's video efforts.

Ciana is always trying to improve her leadership skills and her technical expertise. Since her first year, she has been on the drive team and Strategy team, taking lessons learned into robot design. To become a well-rounded engineer, she has worked on mechanical, electrical, and controls subteams.

Just as she is extremely committed to robotics, she is highly involved to her church, working with the youth program, serving food in the soup kitchen, sorting clothes in the store house, and traveling to other countries on mission trips. She also plays cello and volunteers in the Penfield Ambulance; she plans to become an EMT within the next 2 years!

Outside FIRST, her largest endeavor is Families with Children from China (FCC.) From age 10, she has been developing leadership skills by helping to plan and lead a Culture Weekend to train other adopted girls to be leaders and role models. She teaches them about their shared culture through dance, music, crafts and food. By teaching, she learned to work well with both adults and children. Spending many months planning, she focused on the financials, with last year's event both great fun and under budget!

These skills have translated well into FIRST. She takes new students under her wing and this year recruited the most girls ever! To retain them, she organized a Girls' Night, made team color tutus for competition, and trained them on the mechanics of the robot, providing confident girls.

Ciana plans to mentor to inspire students the way she continues to be by her mentors. Mentoring, something she already respectfully does with her peers, would be easy for her to do at her first choice college, the Rochester Institute of Technology for Biomedical Engineering. We have no doubt FIRST is in her future as she has already dug herself deep into the FIRST foundation.