

Name of person being nominated: Ms. Beth Hale

Nominee Team #: 357

Name of person submitting nomination: Fawzia Salahuddin and Evan Doherty

Describe why the person being nominated should be recognized through this award (600 words or less):

No better person comes to mind when demonstrating the spirit and values of FIRST other than Ms. Beth Hale. She is one of the most dedicated mentors on our team, spending a vast amount of her time mentoring us. As a biology and chemistry teacher at Upper Darby High School, she is the link from our team to the school district. She broadcasts news about our robotics team throughout the school and organizes many community events. Some of these events include Seller's Library Robotics Day where she was quoted on CBS News, presentations at local middle schools, and demonstrations at Alex's Lemonade Stand. She also runs our Parents Night where she explains to the parents what we do in robotics, talks about our competitions, and shares the benefits of being in this program. Ms. Hale reaches out to students who would prosper from being in robotics, such as one of our alumni, Bill Thompson. She recruited him in his freshmen year of high school and he has been a crucial part of our team for the last four years. She also has a close relationship with the other mentors of this team, allowing her to close the gap between the technical and non-technical mentors. Ms. Hale, along with a few of our students participated in Boeing's Engineering Week where they demonstrated our robot to engineers at Boeing and were also able to see other local engineering projects created by colleges and other companies.

Ms. Hale is an encouraging mentor. If she is not in the pits, she is in the stands shouting words of encouragement to help our team succeed in the competitions or helping us scout the other teams. Being one of the main mentors of this team, she always encourages us to help other teams in the pits, and encourages us to help out with field clean-up or volunteer roles whenever we can. She also plays a big part in organizing our events and making sure they run smoothly, such as Kick Off and Alex's Lemonade Stand. She also runs our Summer Robotics Camp where students from the elementary and middle schools are introduced to a variety of engineering and programming challenges. During the Summer Robotics Camp, kids are split into random groups where they complete hands-on assignments, like building robots that are programmed to complete challenges, and learn programming skills. The kids then present what they have learned to their peers and parents. All of this is made possible by Ms. Hale's dedication to bringing educating the younger generations on science, technology, and valuable everyday skills, like public speaking.

Ms. Hale is a great example of a professional role model on our team. During build season, she shares innovative ideas for designs and allows students to share their ideas and express their feelings about the new game for the season in a team discussion. She makes sure to guide students to try new things in robotics and get involved in various aspects of engineering. Ms. Hale talks us through our engineering problems and urges us to think of our own solutions to better understand the problem. Communication is a key facet in doing well during competitions. We are influenced to talk to other teams to

promote our team and familiarize ourselves with our competition. Our drive team is told specifically to interact with each other during competitions so that they understand the strategy. For all these reasons and more, Ms. Hale is a prime nominee to receive the Duel Master Volunteer Award for the 2014 season.