

Name of person being nominated: **Bob Dudek**

Nominee Team #: **365**

Name of person submitting nomination: **Samantha Stevenson**

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

For sixteen years, the Miracle Workers at team 365 have witnessed the jovial and diligent character of one man: Robert Francis Dudek. However, to us, he is known as Bobby D, mentor extraordinaire. And although his name is brief, his vast contributions to all our lives inside the workshop are anything but.

Maggie recalls a meaningful gesture from Bob, “One day, I was sawing metal on the band saw. Bob walked by and said ‘you go girl!’ ... Bob always makes sure everyone knows that everything we do each day matters.” So many students on the team feel similarly about Bob—he constantly encourages us, and through this encouragement, challenges us to do our best everyday.

Bob Dudek is truly unique in the way that he demands respect while finding ways to maintain our enthusiasm and keep our senses of humor in tact. His convivial instinct especially resonates at competitions; he feels comfortable and competent even while decorating his face with bright MOE colors! His outgoing personality inspires shy students to break out from their shells and join him in dancing in crazy green and matte outfits. His reach is as diverse as putting together criteria for our elite competition team as well as securing sponsorship for our award-winning website. However, Bob gives more than time; he gives EVERYTHING to the team.

“He made me feel welcome and is always helping out the new kids. He teaches you instead of just telling you. Bob is the main reason I chose to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. He even wrote three of my recommendations.”- Josh

Bob first got involved with MOE sixteen years ago when his sons were on the team. Even though they graduated long ago, he just can’t quit! As the competition team coach, Bob can always be seen coaching, strategizing, and meeting with other teams. His love for MOE and the students is obvious through the enormous amount of time that he dedicates to the team and every meeting.

Clare notes, “Bob is always there for you. Whether you need help completing your project, information on what to do, motivation, or just someone to keep you company, he will be there. Bob is always willing to help you if you need it, and doesn’t discourage you if you don’t know how to do something. Not only is he a great mentor, but he’s also an all-around great guy.”

Outside of MOE, Bob has worked with FRC316 and FRC1370 to organize an off-season event for the last decade. He coordinates all the details, writes the action plan, and runs regular conferences for 6 months leading up to the event.

Bob is also one of the mentors who help our students present at local schools to recruit for our team; he took it upon himself to convince a local school board to build their own team. Bob even took the time to bring our robot, Li'l MOE, to his hometown of Buffalo to help start a team there. Very few people know that Bob does all this while still caring for his bedridden, disabled wife.

Although the hours Bob has put into this team can be counted, it is impossible to calculate his influence on everyone. With a strong work ethic and wonderful sense of humor, Bob is a hero we all trust and look up to both in FIRST and life in general. I can’t think of anyone who deserves this award more than Bob Dudek.

“Bob Dudek has more fun than any adult should be allowed to have. Through all of that fun, though, he is obviously on a serious mission to inspire the next generation of scientists and inventors in a lasting, meaningful way.” –Rich Kressly