

**Name of person being nominated:** Allan Bailey

**Nominee Team #:** 375

**Name of person submitting nomination:** Abigail Brown

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

Allan Bailey has been an essential part of team 375 The Robotic Plague from day one. Without him, there very well may not have been a robotics team at Staten Island Technical High School. In September 2000, two adults and ten students came together to turn an idea into a reality. Allan Bailey helped form one of the strongest assets Staten Island Tech has today.

At the ripe young age of 65, when most teachers are contemplating retirement, Allan Bailey was just beginning his FIRST career. Five years later, now 70, Mr. Bailey ended his 40-year teaching career and retired from Staten Island Technical High School. However, FIRST Robotics was something Mr. Bailey simply could not retire from. He still makes an effort to be at every meeting, every practice, and most importantly, every competition. To this day, he still makes the long trek from his New Jersey home to help and support the team, not an easy task for an 80-year-old man.

Upon retirement, Mr. Bailey moved 60 miles away from our school from Staten Island to New Jersey. Saddened by his leave, the team thought they had lost their founding father. Not only did Mr. Bailey continue his involvement with Team 375, but his long distance journey turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Little did we know, Mr. Bailey moved close to McMaster Carr, a supplier of FIRST. When it comes to build season, we all feel those six weeks flying by. Needless to say it comes in handy when you need a part ASAP and it is delivered before the end of the day.

Mr. Bailey's generosity and kindness has taught our team many lessons, one of them being "Pay it forward." Because of him, each member of our team is required to volunteer and give our service back to our community. For example, the seemingly retired Mr. Bailey is also one of the reasons team 375 can afford FRC events. Rather than having to pay for multiple shuttles to bus the team to and from competition centers and hotels, Mr. Bailey drives out to all of our competitions to help manage the cost. Mr. Bailey is the driving force behind team 375, literally! He drives our robot to almost every competition. He tries to be as supportive and helpful as possible, even if that means an eight hour drive from New York to North Carolina.

The soft-spoken Mr. Bailey has always been first to offer encouraging words. When a new teammate does something wrong, rather than chastising them and passing the task along to a more experienced member, he will sit down and explain the problem until the student understands. He is one of the most patient, respected mentors a team can ever ask for.

He is also an inspiration to us as an engineer. Mr. Bailey has obtained patents, which has inspired our team to come up with our own inventions. Presently, I, along with a few other teammates, have a patent pending in the field of cyber-security. Inspired by his knowledge of electronics, we value his opinions and suggestions. With his constant reassurance, we feel that we have something special, and even though we are young, we believe we will bring our invention to market before the end of the 2015 school year.

After 40 plus years in teaching, and over 15 years involvement with FIRST, we feel there is no one more deserving of the prestigious Mike Wade Award.