

Name of person being nominated: David Cohen A.K.A “Jumper”

Nominee Team #: 384 SPARKY

Name of person submitting nomination: Connor Clarke – written by Brooke Merritt and Mahira Ali

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

Dave Cohen, AKA: “Jumper” to those that are fortunate enough to know him personally. A man on a mission to be all he can and have others do the same. Jumper, an electrical engineer from *FIRST* sponsor, Flexicell, came to *FIRST* nine years ago via a former mentor for team 1086 and current mentor for team 2106. Throughout the years, Jumper’s passion has touched hundreds of young people’s lives. Jumper has demonstrated the ideals of *FIRST* along with his passion/dedication for engineering in all *FIRST* levels: mentoring JR FLL, judging FLL/FTC events, helping with Virginia*FIRST*, and mentoring team 1086 and now team 384. He also assists other teams in the Richmond area with parts and machining. Jumper is a true master of his trade and getting students to understand the importance of engineering, mathematics, machining, communication, teamwork.

His enthusiasm for *FIRST* is exemplified by his work ethic, dedication, and commitment; taking off time from work to assist/spend time with the Sparky family, he’s always first to arrive and last to shut the lights off, especially during build season. During meetings, Jumper involves students in summarizing previous meetings and thinking of solutions to problems we may have come across. The most important thing he teaches students is to believe that they’re capable of doing anything in engineering, and he personally helps students to pursue this. He strives to help students understand how certain processes work, not just the importance of getting things done and helps makes complex processes easy to comprehend.

Jumper has taught students various skills, such as wiring and welding, but he didn’t simply tell us how to do it. He thoroughly explains each detail of processes that are used in industry and helps students understand the importance of doing the job efficiently, motivating students to pay closer attention to their job each time. Jumper works with us to derive strategies incorporating skills that come from his daily work as an engineer. He not only helps come up with strategies, but guides us through effective, simple, and easy-to-understand methods to implement and communicate them. Jumper also consistently helps us find new corporate sponsors. Last summer, he called suppliers from his workplace and secured team meetings with them, resulting in Sparky obtaining two new sponsors, Aerotek and Hermitage Automation.

“He showed me how to use SolidWorks, he makes it fun and easy to understand.”– Andrew 12th grade. “He inspired me to pursue a career in biomedical engineering and apply for an internship while in high school” – Shelby (Alumni). “He

affected me so greatly that every year, I come back to mentor FRC/FTC teams” – Matt (Alumni), ODU Mechanical Engineering student.

Connor Clarke, 2010 VA Regional WFA winner, said “I walk in the footsteps of giants: former WFA winners: Ansel Butterfield, Joanne Talmage (122), Marshall Turner (384), Toss Cline (620), Dave Lavery (116), Martin Rothwell, Jerry Skene, and Phil Sica (612) and now, 2014 VA Regional WFA winner,” David Cohen, is truly a giant amongst all, instilling enthusiasm, work ethic, and a moral compass to guide our *FIRST* students. Jumper is not just an inspiration to our students but a true inspiration to me and other *FIRST* mentors.”

Actions often speak louder than words, and Jumper’s actions certainly speak clearly to us all through his passion for kindling the flame inside the next generation of engineers and commitment to our team. His selfless actions, good spirit, and constant support help spread the “spark” and serve as inspiration for our members to do better and go further in what they pursue, walking with them every step of the way.