

365 – Lucie Wilkens

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Whether it's at weekend meetings, off-season events, or major competitions, Lucie Wilkens can always be seen over a student's shoulder helping them fix a bug, cheering on our team from the stands, or congratulating students on their most recent win on the field. Not only is she incredibly kind and supportive, but her wisdom and contributions to the team are immeasurable.

Lucie has always put students first. This has always been her motto since she joined the team alongside her son as a mentor 17 years ago. Before the start of the build season, she spends individual time with each student on the programming team to make sure they understand the basis of programming a robot. She is always willing to take time out of her hectic schedule to explain a difficult idea. She never dismisses us, but instead explains the concept behind why we do something and how it works. Despite her vast knowledge and experience on the team, Lucie always asks for our opinions first. She is always open to implementing new ideas and programming strategies brought forth by students. Lucie realizes that we are all intelligent people, each with our strengths and weaknesses; and she is always very patient and kind. She is always willing to let us jump right in and try, even though we may be wrong. It is her knowledge as well as her talent for teaching that is so invaluable.

Although she is a very modest person, Lucie is a powerhouse of knowledge and expertise. MOE is a team dedicated to promoting diversity in the field of STEM. Coming from an undergraduate degree from Washington University and a PhD at MIT, Lucie is a prime example of a courageous woman role model showing our team that in order to be successful, all that is needed is passion and hard work. Lucie was able to pursue a career in the math and science fields at a time when they were entirely male dominated. This is shown by her accomplishment of being the 4th woman at MIT to have earned a PhD in Chemical Engineering. It's great to have such a strong woman mentor that the girls on the team can look up to. Not only can she offer advice and expertise on what it's like to be an engineer, but she can also discuss what it was like to be a minority in her field. She is also a shining example of a successful self-taught person. She worked her way from being an electrical mentor to gaining enough expertise to become the fully-fledged programming master she is today. Lucie really encourages all of the young women on our team to go for their dreams—which often tend to be in the engineering or computer science fields. Even today, females are underrepresented in the engineering fields, and as one of the main woman volunteers on our team, Lucie has dedicated so much of her time to make sure the female students on our team have a voice and are not afraid to try new things and be themselves. Through our many mistakes, Lucie is always there to lend a hand and tell us that our setbacks can only push us forward. She is a role model that is always there and willing to help. Through her hard-work, compassion, and dedication, she has instilled in our team, the core ideas that MOE embodies.