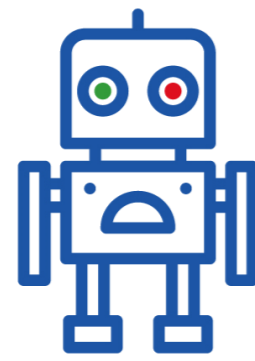


STELLAR



ALUMNI

NAME

Casey Kemp

CAREER

Test Engineer

EDUCATION

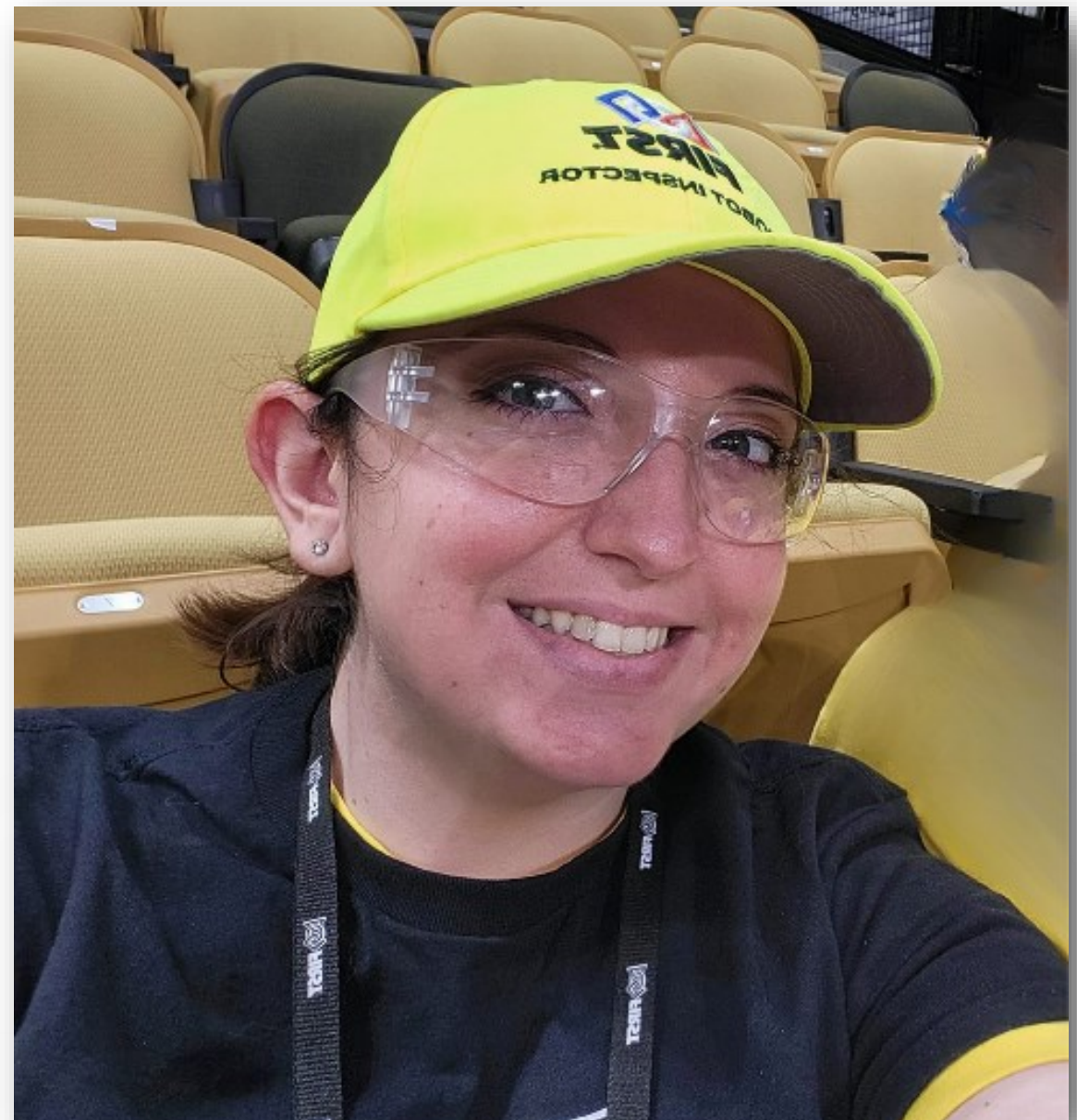
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
University of Central Florida

TEAM

Team 3011, The RoboWarriors

YEAR(S) ATTENDED THE ORLANDO/ FLORIDA REGIONAL AS A STUDENT

2012 & 2013



HOW HAS FIRST IMPACTED YOUR LIFE PROFESSIONAL AND/OR PERSONALLY?

In the beginning, FIRST showed me the power of networking, generating an international social network for me after living 16 years of my life overseas prior to graduating high school. Leaving home nearly 5,000 miles away, and into a culture very alien to me, FIRST became common ground through college and into my professional career. I returned to FIRST at the Orlando regional as a volunteer, and FIRST continued to teach me lessons. FIRST gave me confidence in my field and a feeling of belonging in my profession, bound to my peers by cause. FIRST taught me that everyone is different and unique, and rather than pull the ceiling down for my colleagues (and students) to reach, but to raise the floor and change the world forever.

HOW HAS WHAT YOU LEARNED IN FIRST HELPED YOU SUCCEED IN YOUR CAREER?

I am able to use my unique attitude to be inclusive in my profession, and give the team members I work with a platform to share their ideas. Although I did not learn many technical skills through FIRST, it is not my hardware skills that define my career, but the team work, detail orientation, and solutions I provide. FIRST developed my soft skills, my ability to listen to and work with adults and students, to troubleshoot and collaborate with SMEs (people much smarter than me) to develop multiple solutions, and the confidence to face the most aggressive and intimidating colleagues.

WHAT HAVE YOU WORKED ON IN YOUR CAREER THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF?

As a military dependent, I'm proud to say that the product and solutions I work on have reach back to the war fighter. My father, brother, grandfathers, aunts, and uncles are veterans who serve in our Nation's Marine Corps, Army, Navy, and Air Force, and their families make sacrifices I'm very familiar with. I'm proud that my work keeps my family, and current Active Duty members and their families safe. I'm also proud that I work in Space, which has always been a fascination of mine, ever since my childhood nickname of "Spacey Casey" (although, I don't think it was the original intention).

IF YOU CONTINUED YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH FIRST POST-HIGH SCHOOL, WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE?

I continue to volunteer in hopes that I can help students understand that they are valued just by being present. Even if they don't value their contributions to the team or claim NOTHING was gained by being a FIRST alum, FIRST makes an impact regardless of their effort into the program. Putting effort into the program only exponentially impacts their future, but by being a FIRST student, their future is already very bright.