

# STELLAR ALUMNI

## NAME

Christopher Kerns "Washer"

## CAREER

IT Teacher

All About Achieving Learning Center

## EDUCATION

2 Years of College

## TEAM

Team 180, SPAM

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

2009-2013



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

When I was in 2nd grade, I rode on a robot that was demoing at the Blake Library. After that amazing introduction I focused on learning about technology and robotics. I discovered a FLL team at my elementary school and joined the team and continued through until middle school. When I entered high school I joined an FTC team and an FRC team and competed in both programs simultaneously. I was cleaning out the storage area and discovered a familiar-looking robot, it was Fluffy, the robot that introduced me to my love for STEAM!

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

To learn from mistakes. My nickname Washer comes from a bunch of mistakes I made when I dropped a box of washers when I was a Freshman. I use the nickname, Washer as a S.T.E.A.M nickname when I teach to help students feel at ease with me. This helps them understand that we all make mistakes, but more importantly, we must learn from those mistakes and move on.

## IF YOU CONTINUED YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH FIRST POST-HIGHSCHOOL, WHY?

To give back to a program that inspired me, and to inspire all students that with FIRST any kid can go pro. As I go into the different underserved communities, I see students that say they cannot go to college due to it being too expensive, they are not ready to go, or even that they would rather do a trade because for some people college is not a place for them. I tell them about FIRST, what I have achieved by helping others, and how my life is richer and fuller because of all the people I help. I am proud to be a FIRST Alumni and of the lives that I have touched through my giving back.