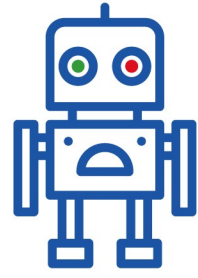


STELLAR



ALUMNI

NAME

Kimberly Stears

CAREER

Teacher & Academy Director of Academy of Information Technology and Robotics
Spruce Creek High School

EDUCATION

Daytona State College

TEAM

Team 2152, S*M*A*S*H

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

2012-2015 as a student



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

Professionally, I became a teacher with the program my high school team is affiliated with and have now moved up as the academy director of the program and as a lead coach for the team. I also have been able to make so many amazing connections that have helped bring FIRST to my school district. Personally, I got to meet my amazing husband who is a FIRST alum as well. FIRST also taught me a lot about self worth and confidence which I can now pass down to my students.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR CAREER?

If I had to pick a specific thing it would be that I am able to see passions being developed in my students pretty much daily. They get to have “a-ha” moments and experience success that is directly related to their career goals. I am also proud of receiving the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award in South Florida this year. I am still processing it to be honest. Receiving that award reinforces to me that I am making a difference in my students' lives. As a teacher that is all I could hope for.

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

I wanted to share the experiences I got to have as a student with others. My mentors made a huge impact on me as a student so when I was asked to continue to work with my team I immediately said yes. Now my mentoring has transitioned to being a lead coach in FRC but also FTC, training new teachers in my county, and getting to volunteer in all levels of FIRST. FIRST is a part of my family's dynamic now too. My husband is our FRC drive coach and my daughter is starting FLL Discover officially next year. I want to be a part of making a difference in the next generation of FIRST students