

Adrienne Emerson

AFA Chapter 416 – 2020 Teacher of the Year

Chapter 416 proudly nominates Adrienne Emerson, a Engineering and Robotics Teacher & District Robotics Director at Greenville High School, as our 2020 Teacher of the Year (TOY).

Adrienne Emerson has been in her current position and teaching for 11 years. Her challenge to her students; "Have Fun. Make Friends. Chase Excellence." If you ask any of her students what their goals are in robotics or in life that is the answer you will most likely hear. This well-rounded approach to education and competition has led the Greenville Engineering and Robotics program to grow from 20 students to 500+ students in her 11-year tenure at Greenville ISD.

Adrienne's passion for Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) education is rooted in her own experience in high school as a robotics team member. "My teachers and mentors gave me so much when I was in school," she says. "The best way I believe I can repay them is by giving my students the same love of knowledge and determination to work through hard problems that my mentors gave me when I was young."

Under Adrienne's leadership, the robotics team has earned the following awards since 2009: 1 World Championship, 5 Final Four Appearances, 2 UIL State Championships, 16 Regional Wins and 30 Technical Awards. In 2016, Adrienne was awarded the prestigious Woodie Flowers award, which is presented to an outstanding robotics competition mentor who best leads, inspires, teaches, and empowers their team using excellent communication skills.

"Adrienne is a woman of integrity and substance who leads with a laser focus on student growth. She has compassion for all students and a fierce determination to make a difference," Deputy Superintendent Sharon Boothe says.

Here's what her students have to say: "Mrs. Emerson puts an insane amount of effort into encouraging students to build relationships so there is always somebody to turn to, always some way to learn, and always somebody to inspire you," Alyssa Ruprecht says. "She never failed to emphasize the importance of teamwork. She makes the team a second family. By volunteering her time and working diligently, she molds every student into a responsible young adult."

Adrienne also is one of the original teachers in the Early College High School (ECHS) program, where students graduate with an associate's degree in engineering. "Mrs. Emerson has worked diligently in the Greenville ECHS P-TECH program to promote the understanding and applications of engineering, as well as exposing students to the many engineering disciplines," ECHS Chancellor Casey Chaney says.

She also serves as a liaison between this program and our work-based learning industry partner Innovation First International (IFI) (416 Community Partner). The partnership has been one of the driving forces behind the success of the robotics and ECHS programs. "Like many companies, Innovation First is proud to support our local school district," says John V-Neun, IFI President, Rack Solutions division. "We sometimes struggle to identify opportunities to get involved. Adrienne is amazing because, on top of all the other things she does for her students, she also helps us maximize the impact of our corporate support. She is a wonderful student advocate and drives much of our corporate outreach strategy."

For these reasons we nominate this outstanding teacher as our 2020 AFA Chapter TOY!


MSgt Sandra Gold, AFA 416 Chapter