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Below is the nomination you submitted for the Woodie Flowers Award. You may log in and view it at any time.

Event: **Chesapeake Regional**  
Submitted: 02/22/2007

**Candidates First Name:** Melissa  
**Candidates Middle Initial:**  
**Candidates Last Name:** Schneider  
**Address 1 (number, street, etc.):** 3 Old Lyme Road  
**Address 2 (apt., bldg., etc.):**  
**City:** Lutherville  
**State/Province:** MD  
**Zip/Postal Code:** 21093  
**Country:** USA  
**Employer:** Hollander Dental  
**Occupation:** Dentist  
**Position on Team:** Mother and Financial Resource Officer

**Images:**



**Your First Name:** Alexander  
**Your Last Name:** Hristov  
**Your E-Mail:** [hristov.alex@gmail.com](mailto:hristov.alex@gmail.com)  
**Your Phone:** 410-561-0288  
**Your Position on Team:** President

**First Reference's First Name:** Brian  
**First Reference's Last Name:** Bruneau  
**First Reference's E-Mail:** [bbruneau@bcps.org](mailto:bbruneau@bcps.org)  
**First Reference's Phone:** 410-428-8551  
**First Reference's Position on Team:** Faculty Advisor  
**Second Reference's First Name:** Jenny  
**Second Reference's Last Name:** Beatty  
**Second Reference's E-Mail:** [jbeatty@usfirst.org](mailto:jbeatty@usfirst.org)  
**Second Reference's Phone:** 410-343-1604

Team 1727 has set ambitious plans for 2007 and the years ahead. No mentor has done more to inspire and facilitate these plans than Dr. Melissa Schneider, Team 1727's candidate for the Woodie Flowers Award.

After establishing itself as an organization in 2005-2006, Team 1727 sought a way to broaden programs with corporate partners and the local community. Dr. Schneider helped to greatly expand the team's grass-roots fundraising initiative. For our annual Carrabba's Night fundraiser, Dr. Schneider convinced eight local businesses to purchase advertisements in the team's publications. She scheduled fundraisers at Sam's Club, Greetings and Readings, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Yamato Sushi, and Baja Fresh. These efforts raised over four thousand dollars for the team. In addition, the team gained the attention of several passers-by who now serve as mentors. More importantly, these efforts have made team members aware of the pressing need to use the community as a source of financial and mentor support.

Dr. Schneider also expanded the team's resources. Through her initiative, Team 1727 has newly established partnerships with KLMK, The Drescher Foundation, The Meoli Family, and Bovis Lend-Lease. She has also helped maintain and improve our relationships with previous sponsors. When informed of an expected shortfall in financial assistance from the team's leading sponsor, Dr. Schneider took it upon herself to resolve the issue. She did so in a way that resolved all conflict and even increased mentor involvement from that sponsor. Furthermore, she planned tours of a Black and Decker facility and of a Bovis Lend-Lease hospital construction site. These tours gave team members their best opportunity to see a future in engineering, and were particularly effective because workers at both sites displayed a passion for their jobs.

Dr. Schneider also brought two mentors to Team 1727. Machinist Terry Loper has aided the team by fabricating key parts for the pneumatic ramps and lifting arm. Raytheon engineer Larry Kenny has helped the team's leadership oversee and coordinate mentor involvement and robot design. Without Dr. Schneider, these mentors would never have come to contribute the way they did, and the build season could not have been as successful.

Dr. Schneider's greatest contribution has been her time and knowledge. Her time, unlike money, is not refundable; the use of it is permanent. Dr. Schneider has selflessly dedicated hours upon hours in order to help Team 1727. She has helped to critique our student-leadership structure, constantly pushing for greater mentor involvement and making the seniors aware of their responsibility to be teachers and role models for the underclassmen. From her, members of Team 1727 have learned the importance of implementing a long-term business plan to finance the years ahead. At the heart of this plan is her application for a grant that, if funded, will help pay for the team's plan to hold a vex regional next year.

Dr. Melissa Schneider is the epitome of FIRST's message and goal. She is an individual selflessly using all of her considerable influence and skills for the expansion of the FIRST community and the growth of Team 1727. Through her efforts countless people have become aware of FIRST's presence and its importance. Additionally, she has formed a financial foundation for Team 1727's growth and contributed to its resources, unlocking the organization's potential to achieve its lofty goals.