

The Woodie Flowers Award

There are plenty of reasons to give this award to Nacho, he was the founder of “Corazon de Chileno®”, he’s maintained himself as a fundamental member of the team and he’s been responsible of great part of the achievements we’ve had. He is, in an undeniable way, the biggest propeller of FIRST in Chile.

It all started in 2005; Nacho was studying Engineering in University Andres Bello. With a group of classmates they decided to organize the first robotics competition for children in Chile. The development of this activity looked quite complex due to the little material that was at disposition and the lack of record in the matter. That year 300 people participated. Now there are more than 1200 participants in the Robotics’ Scholastic.

During 2006 Nacho traveled to Mexico where he held a meeting with the FLL organization of this country and then in 2007 he went to the World Festival in Atlanta where he understood conditions and aspects of FIRST.

He took on the duty to find a way to manage the arrival of FLL to Chile. The first year of competition (2007), Nacho was mentor to a team formed by children with cancer. He travelled with the team to the World Festival in Atlanta, winning the prize “*Team Spirit Award*”.

In 2008 he gathered the friends that had helped him fund the Robotics’ Interscholastic so they would help him with the creation of the first and, until now, only FRC team in Chile, “Corazón de Chileno®”

Counting with all the technology, financing and spaces to realize the project was unimaginable and the failing possibility was imminent even to the most optimistic. However Nacho had faith in his conviction.

This is what Nacho tries to explain to us, impossible isn’t something you can’t do, it just may be “*improbable*”. We know that developing the competition each year is “*improbable*”, but Nacho has taught us that these difficulties, when overcome, make us feel even more proud of our work.

Nacho helps us understand concepts of engineering and to do them in practice at dairy. He talks to us about scientific acts he thinks we’ll find interesting in such a way that makes us want to know more.

The earthquake that suffered our country in 2010 destroyed the moral of our country. We lost all of our sponsors as nationally the loss was enormous.

A great tragedy hit us; Nacho's father was travelling in one of the airplanes helping in the epicenter of the earthquake that suffered a grave accident causing all the passengers to die.

This entire situation, summed with the national crisis took us, as a team, to want to cancel our participation for 2010. However Nacho convinced us not to saying that what the country most needed was good news and we had to show we were able to go against all adversity.

More than anything, as a team we feel very proud and grateful for the constant support, inspiration, unconditional delivery, friendship with which he has guided us in the competition and in our lives. Nacho has the role of both mentor and friend.