Leadership Engagement
Managing Team USA in Model Rocket World Championships

“I realized that when I’m in leadership mode, it’s never about me; it’s always about the people I’m leading.”

The Project
I went to Slovakia as an assistant team manager for the junior U.S. Spacemodeling Team for the 2012 World Spacemodeling Championship.

During the week-long competition, I devoted my time and energy toward assisting the junior team members as they competed in their various events.

The Inspiration
Model rocketry has been a family hobby for the past ten years. In 2010 we attended our first world championship in Serbia, and I thought I could contribute this year as a team manager rather than a competitor.

The Challenges
During the competition, the team had challenges that I helped overcome, such as engine malfunctions, running out of waddling, needing different igniters, etc., but the biggest challenge was carrying on and fulfilling my management role during the competition.

Benefit to Others
Ultimately, two of the US teams earned fourth place, and a member of the junior team earned an individual bronze. I hope that my service and efforts helped contribute to that success.

Benefit to Myself
This project taught me a lot about patience, teaching, and leading. As a future educator, these are valuable skills that I can use in my career.