**VEX IQ Girl Powered Online Challenge**

**Team 56445E**

When I hear the phrase Girl Powered, having more diverse students here at STEM comes to mind. It reflects on my team because some girls have good teamwork and my team’s goal is: We strive to have good teamwork and good communication. We took initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students because we show that it is easy to get into robotics and getting good at it is even easier.

Each team member tried various roles. I tried note booking and getting pieces to build with as we created a robot. Then I tried programming and finally I tried building. I stayed with building because that is what I was good at doing. Luke tried building first, then printing stuff for the note book, then videoing, and finally note booking. He was good with documenting in the notebook, so he stayed with that. Tyler tried building and CAD designing as well. Carter tried getting parts, note booking, programming, and then CAD design. Through this experience we learned to try things that we have not tried before and that was the easy part. It is a good idea and beneficial to try new things, but it is very time consuming and sometimes boring. The hard part is that it is very challenging to make a decision on what role you want to stick with to help your team the most.

I believe diversity of perspective changes our robot design because you don’t turn down everyone else’s ideas. It changes our team’s chemistry because you are willing to try more things. It changes our ability to succeed because you are more willing to work with other people, share the robot, and work together.

My STEM role model is Mrs. Garrett because she gets to work with kids who are working with robotics all week. I wish I could do that too when I grow up. I think Girl Powered should be about doing what you like and not being told what you have to do. It should be about having girls and boys working together in robotics jobs. It should be about making your own decisions like what you want to do as your job on your team like a builder, a programmer, a driver, a note booker, a parts grabber, an online challenge tester, or a test driver to see what you need to do to improve it. You should do what you like to do; not what your told to do. It should be about doing what you do best to help your team succeed.

This was written by Mason B. from Team 56445 E. The Big Brains is our team name and our robots name is VEXcellent!