I wasn’t the kind of person who could go up to random people and talk to them about anything. I was uncomfortable presenting in front of different people and talking in front of my classmates.

--But it all started with one question from a friend of mine, “Wanna join a new VEX robotics team?”

These few words and my parents’ and team members’ support has given me a better understanding of how to communicate with others and speak out for myself. The judging presentations have helped me have a better understanding of how people present in front of others. Scouting many new teams during the competition that I have never heard of helped me be able to suddenly go up to somebody and talk and make new friends.

Getting involved with robots has allowed me to think of a career in engineering in the future also. And most of all, for someone like me who was never able to get involved with a club at school before, getting involved with this team was a huge deal because I felt I was being part of another family – always helping each other. This year is my second year in VEX and I still have much more to learn, but I am now proud to say who I am and what I do. Thank you VEX and my team, 1492 who gave me the opportunity to step up and try out new things, and discover what I really enjoy doing.