I’ve grown up around robotics and technology since I was born. By the time I started preschool, my cousin had begun playing with robots. I had always observed robotics, of many varieties; ranging from LEGO Mindstorms, to VEX, to First Robotics, and wondered to myself, “How do these things work?” By the time I was in middle school, my sisters had joined the Exothermic Robotics club in our local high school. And that is when my life began to change. I would watch them enviously as they headed to the cupboards containing a wide assortment of parts, ranging from metal, to screws, to motors. And with these seemingly insignificant pieces, they were able to create this massive, or so it seemed, robot, that worked. As it glided effortlessly over the field, I realized that this was what I wanted to do. And thus my passion for robotics began. After briefly working with Mindstorms, I progressed onto VEX this year, and I found my personal nirvana. Being able to create a moving, working robot, which could *actually* achieve something gave me a sense of accomplishment. As I watched my team’s robot, that we had fondly dubbed Fluffy, for its penchant for “biting” people with its primitive claw, I realized that I did not want to stop there, I wanted to go onto bigger and better robots. My life had been changed, and I was ready to do something with this.