Portraits of the Future

When I attended my first FLL Tournament, I experienced the newness of being in a single room with so many people who enjoyed Robotics. Until then, I had never been in contact with such diverse personalities and ideas. I greatly enjoyed being a part of this innovative community, which opened me up to possibilities, creative ideas, and the teamwork to bring to life our visions. I remember an announcer saying “We are all cogs, working for a bigger picture that transcends the sum of its parts”. Although I didn’t consider the implications of this poignant statement at the time, this mantra has become a cornerstone in how I strive to influence the world around me.

I reflect upon how my role as a team member and global participant in robotics has changed over the years. As an incoming sophomore, I was the vessel for the future of the team, learning to participate in something larger than myself to secure the bright future of VEX Robotics. Over the past two years, however, I see myself emulating my team captains, teaching new members to become functioning cogs of a bigger picture, guiding them as a role model, helping them achieve their goal. My place in the robotics community, regardless of how I change, has been in both the present and the future. While I continue to participate in tournaments and create innovative robots, I also pave the way for upcoming VEX members who can greatly impact the robotics world and the world around us.