A lot of people think of VEX competitions as meaningless. The think *you wake up at five or six in the morning and drive maybe one, two states away to spend the entire day with a hunk of metal.* But this isn’t what I’m thinking as I enter the door to our competition. This is something we’ve prepared for as a team, made many attempts at and failed, maybe finally gotten it right, and I’m here to show it off. I want to show what I have and in return I want you to show me what I can do better. We go up for a match and I go through a mental list in my mind telling me what to do to prepare. In the stands or up in a match, I am anxious, the outcome could be anything.

I’ve made a lot of mistakes throughout my VEX years. My last two teams have gone to World Championships. I still have friends from old teams, and from old competitions. I have inside jokes with only them that nobody else would get and old memories of us laughing until we fell to the floor. VEX, for me, isn’t something I can explain in any amount of words. It’s about friendship, learning, sharing, experiencing, and having fun. I practically live for our robot.

My name is Natasha, this is my third year in VEX Robotics. I’m currently a programmer for my team and I intend to do this even throughout college.