

My name is Kyle Medeiros. At the time I am writing this, I am a sophomore at Bayshore High School. Around the beginning of the school year, I was put in charge of a competitive VEX Robotics team, Team 5900J. Prior to being in charge of a VEX Competitive team, I've had numerous leadership opportunities including TSA officer positions, to name one. Since I started competing with my team, I've learned many things about engineering, the design process, and VEX altogether, but if there's one thing I can take away from everything my team and I have done so far this year, is that, when applied correctly, failure will, in the end, only make you stronger.

Just like many great engineers, my team and I have made mistakes. Be it with overall design, time management, team miscommunication, structural issues, or even a combination of any of the previous, 5900J has made mistakes. Speaking from personal experience, to err is human, but to persevere, even if the situation at hand is currently unfixable without breaking down your whole robot, is exceptional. And even after that, looking at what went wrong and learning from your mistakes to improve yourself and your team is ultimately what makes you and your team stronger, on both the VEX Arena and in everyday life. Never forget that the thing that drives this ability to learn and adapt from mistakes is determination.

You and your team need to never give up, EVER, and you can achieve greatness.