The vex curriculum has been an opportunity for me to develop and progress my skills as an engineer and has established powerful bonds with individuals I’ll remember throughout my life.

One of my favorite moments was during my second year in robotics. During my sophomore year, I was one of two officers in my grade. The other officer was Marayna, the vex captain. A week before school started, we were told we would experience an extremely difficult challenge. We must develop a robot in two weeks, or in our club’s schedule, 14 hours. Naturally, we were apprehensive; however we supported one another and the team. Using our one year of experience, we were able to construct a functional drivetrain, intake, and code from scratch, but not the lift system. We worked restlessly throughout “Tempest N Tampa”, but our efforts were not enough. While everyone else receded from the pit area for bed, Marayna and I stayed. I took a break and scouted robots, but she continued to work. As I scouted, I heard her sobbing. I felt terrible. After all, I recommended the design. I silently walked up behind her and gave her a hug. We stayed like this for a while until she eventually returned the hug. We held hands and walked to where our team stayed. We didn’t let go. Not until We both woke up for competition.

Because of this program, I have grown as an engineer, and even more importantly, as a person.