Writing about VEX robotics is only about thanking.  There are no words to express everything that I’ve learned, not only about engineering but about working in a team: learning how to respect and being patient. VEX means family; it’s a way of connecting people around the world through science.

VEX robotics has inspired me to try and do things that may seem impossible. Who would have predicted that girl teenagers would build a robot? Of course it was hard to change the stereotype that a women team, as us, could have gone as far as us. Maybe people might see as a disadvantage because we are only women, but for us it is a huge advantage. We are unique; we have to work like a boy and a girl at the same time.

If I could go back in time I would love to tell every man who told me “robotics was only for men” how far I’ve been able to go in robotics. They would always justify themselves saying it is something too sophisticated, technical, advanced and difficult. My dream has come true by the side of VEX.

My knowledge and my experience have grown, my expectations have been fulfilled and my studies with all this knowledge have improved.  Physics is more understandable and applicable like math.

What else can I add? I just want to leave this gratitude latent in the name of every women who have ventured into this wonderful, modern and interesting world of robotics, my family, friends, and teachers for your support and motivation and extend the invitation to all those girls who still doubt that this medium include us.

I found the passion of my life; definitely it is what I want to do as long as I breathe. It made me change my plans for my career. I want to be an engineer now.

Thank you VEX for giving my team and me the opportunity to grow and expand our knowledge and our expectations in life.

**Maria Paula Diaz**

Robotics is a part of my life, my way of speaking, of expressing and thinking.

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