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**Future Visions**

In 2011, Microsoft released a video showing their vision for the future. If it’s as accurate as AT&T’s predictions 30 years ago, in the future both people and technology will be faster and smarter. While I know that the future will likely look different than how this video depicts, I yearn to be a part of a world filled with new innovations and technologies.

I haven’t always felt this way. Before joining my school’s robotics team in 8th grade, I was certain I wanted to be a lawyer. This was before being introduced to the world of engineering, mathematics, and design. I have since fallen in love with this world. When I first joined, I was the only girl, and I was more than a little apprehensive. But I still went.

 Over time, I have come to better understand my place in the club and in the greater engineering world. I am not some pretty face whose sole purpose is to add a pretense of diversity; I am an equal member who is just as capable as the boy right to me. Now, when I go to Vex tournaments, the male dominated environment doesn’t intimidate me, it inspires me. Vex has given me the confidence to advocate for female presence in robotics. I can now envision a world where women feel empowered in the mathematical and engineering world. And I can take pride in knowing I will be a part of this future.