Deep down, everybody is a procrastinator. When I got into high school, I certainly was. I remember freshmen year being terrifying, doing my homework late at night or during lunch. I would ask myself *why is this so difficult?* When I started doing VEX Robotics, it suddenly clicked.

I joined Kent Denver Robotics because some of my friends were in it. I thought I could go in, hang out, and generally coast along. But just before my first tournament, my coach put everything in perspective.

He told us that if we want to succeed, we needed to work for it. It seems simple, but it was never laid out so simply in front of me. My success is entirely in my hands. We went to that tournament, but we didn’t win anything. We knew how, now we had to put in the effort. At the beginning of this year, we were ready to win. I, a new team Captain, was ready to face the challenge.

I learned responsibility and hard work. I was no longer doing my homework at the last minute. I was getting it done so I had more time for robotics. I went practically every day, sometimes staying until midnight when we were no longer allowed to be on campus. We went to the first VEX tournament of the year and won four of the five awards. Doing VEX robotics taught me STEM skills, hard work, and leadership. And these things will be with me forever.