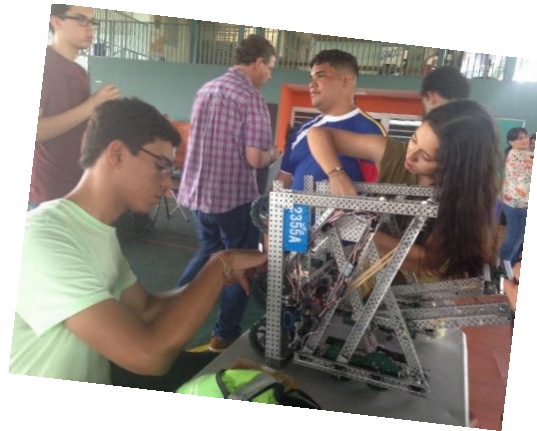


Rethinking equality and the value of difference

In the world we live in today, gender equality is an important subject. The feminist movement is working to build a world in which a men and women are no different from each other. STEM tries to implement these ideas into its programs through Girl powered. But, what does it means to be a girl powered?

Girl  Powered



When I think of the phrase Girl powered, I think of girls who show their leadership, their strength, their creativity and their independence. I think of girls who use their abilities for good, and who motivate other girls to do the same.

In our robotics team, we see everyone as equals. No one has a job more important than the other, and no one is shunned or criticized.

Throughout the years, our team has included people of different genders, age and point of view. We always try to add more people to the team. We think diversity enriches our group's perspectives and ideas for solving problems.



Each member of our team is valuable. All of us do a bit of everything, like programming, driving, build and design. This has helped us learn that each job has its difficulties, and we shouldn't criticize or condemn others because of their mistakes. We should instead help them with what we've learned.

Diversity in points of view greatly impacts the way we build our robot. Our differences complement us. We always try to think from all angles. We're almost never on the same page, so we take things to debate and think about all the possible pros and cons. We respectfully discuss our ideas until we reach an agreement. In some occasions, since we think differently, we have goals that lead us in different paths. If we try to accomplish them all, we won't be able to accomplish any of them. As a group, we should look for a way to have a common goal that will lead us to victory in a way that all of us are satisfied with what we've accomplished and what we've learned.



I carry all these ideals with me, which I learned from Ana Medina, my STEM role model. She's the teacher that brought robotics to my school, and who has fought day and night to protect the program. When I was in sixth grade, she invited me to participate in robotics, and taught me and my team science, math and engineering while she was our teacher in elementary. During the period of time she was the teacher of the robotics club, she accompanied us to competitions and supported us in every single one of our projects. In 2015, she won the Teacher of the Year award, in the VEX Robotic World Championships. Not only is she our teacher and our mentor, but she founded Casa Ana Medina, a shelter for homeless people. She's always thinking about other people rather than herself, and she inspires me and my teammates to do the same. We see her as someone to be looked up to, and she motivates us to fight for what we believe in.

Here in this team, we believe in diversity, we believe in equality, and most of all, we believe that every girl deserves to be a Girl Powered.

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