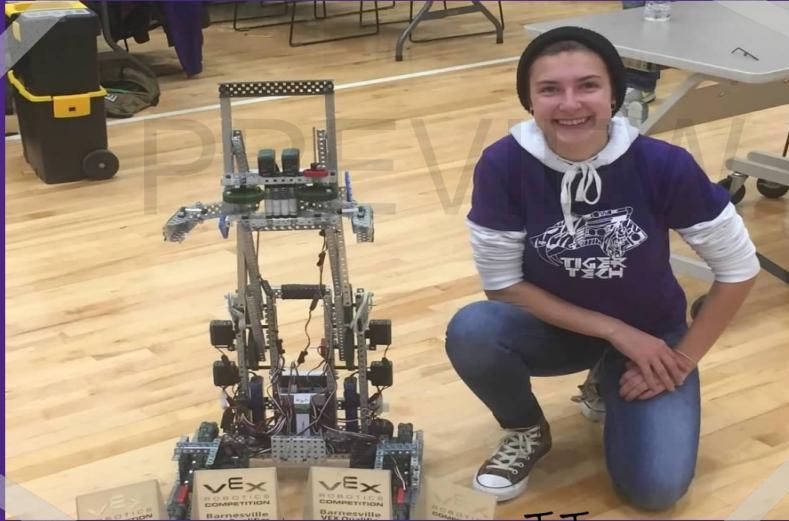


## Girl Powered: The Power in My Voice



T.T.

Written by Taylor Thompson  
VRC Team 6741 - Tiger Tech A  
Pickerington HS Central - Pickerington, Ohio, USA

I began participating on a traveling VEX Robotics team just about two years ago. Initially, I did not know what to expect to come out of participating in the club due to the stereotype of specific traits an engineer is associated with, the male-to-female ratio with men being predominant in the club, and where I could use my skills to benefit the club, as I came from a music and arts background.



T.T.

Title:

The Beginning...

Signature:

Taylor Thompson



T. T.

Though I did not have the ideal traits in mind, I was always extremely comfortable being around boys. Growing up, I was very close to my older brother and dad, giving a reason to as why it is easier for me to communicate with male figures. One of my biggest obstacles coming into Tiger Tech was working with the very few girls that we did have in the club. Overtime, I would have to overcome this restriction to be successful within the organization.

Title:

Getting Along

Signature:

Taylor T.



A large portion of Tiger Tech consisted of students that had previously taken engineering courses or had some type of STEM background. I, on the other hand, had no experience with the components of VEX Robotics, such as building and programming. This was an intimidating factor for me since I was uncertain how my abilities would contribute to the club in comparison to everyone else. Regardless of my uncertainty, I was determined to use the uniqueness of my traits to create a positive influence on the club.

**Title:**

No Experience but Determined

**Signature:**

Taylor T.



During competitions on weekends, I would focus my efforts toward driving the robot; while during the week, I would put my time into the documentation of the robots building process, which is known as an engineering notebook.

The engineering notebook has been a gateway for my artistic abilities to shine through the documentation of the robot, using more uncommon ways to address the design process and team management. I seem to have become a task manager for my team, taking care of any necessities the engineers or programmer needs throughout the work session and making sure we are all contributing to our goals that we set for one another.

**Title:**

Robotics & my Traits

**Signature:**

Taylor T.



T. T.

After using my previous skills and ambition, I have set a new precedent for my school and even changed the atmosphere of Ohio VEX Robotics due to my success through robot driving and the engineering notebook.



T. T.

The picture above shows my first two awards ever won at the biggest tournament in the state of Ohio!

Title:

Success at Last

Signature:

Taylor T.

T.T.

Due to my success in the club, I seemingly have become a gateway for diversity, having garnered interest from other females, to also take part in the robotics program. With my individual success, I was the first female to take an officer position of Vice President and President; and also being the first female to win Tournament Champion, Excellence Award, and Design Award for Pickerington High School Central.



T. T.



T. T.

I believe my successes have influenced a notable change in the organization, having given other students a second chance to trying out the STEM program using the skills they have accumulated that may not be typical traits used in the club.

**Title:**

Influence of my Success

**Signature:**

Taylor T.



T. T.

Although I have influenced the members of the club with my individuality and unique skill set, the members and mentors of Tiger Tech have also influenced my work ethic by teaching me the importance of teamwork and communication. While spending countless hours with your teammates, going through a design process to build the most efficient robot possible, it is important to learn how to divide work evenly and how to prioritize time, because that time is always limited.

**Title:**

Team Influence

**Signature:**

Taylor T.





T. T.

Teamwork has also taught me to value each individuals opinion because each member of your team has something great to contribute to the process, regardless of skill set and background.

T. T.

Without the supportive system Tiger Tech has had a basis of, the club would have never been able to obtain such a unique group of students within the organization.



**Title:**  
Gateway of Diversity

**Signature:**  
Taylor T.



After being a part of this impactful program, which has improved my leadership and communication skills, I have a better idea of what my purpose is; to be someone who will influence and give back to my community through hard work and determination. This organization has given me, a woman, clarification that my voice, even without previous experience with STEM programs, can be contributed to any process as long as you have an inspiring family of students to positively influence your work ethic and encourage diversity throughout the community of Pickerington.

**Title:**

The End

**Signature:**

Taylor T.



## Credits

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I raise up my voice not so I can shout, but so that  
those without a voice can be heard we cannot  
succeed when half of us are held back.  
- Malala Yousafzai