

# A New Beginning

Trying something new can bring anxiety and fear, especially when you know nothing about the subject. I am Patricia Palomino and I am the only girl in 8301D Cougarbots among four other teenage boys. This year (2017-2018) is my first year in robotics and it is a brand new experience that soon became one of the most life changing ones. I decided to join the team because I want to get involved in the engineering field and hopefully major in computer science, therefore I figured joining robotics was the perfect way to get a taste of it. I came in knowing nothing, not even knowing what a c-channel was. For my team and I hearing the words girl powered a lot of things come in mind, like how there isn't enough women in the STEM field. For me girl powered means being able to accomplish various tasks that only men are expected to do. For example: girls driving, building, programming and managing a team. In the beginning my experience was a little rough due to not knowing how the whole process worked and having some difficulty adjusting to the environment. We have to stay after school for 2 hours and 3 times a weeks including breaks, but I was not alone.



***From left to Right: Patricia, Selena, Celeste, Yailin***

There are 3 other girls in 8301 that I got to get along with well, since we were all new and got to come together and bond, which, made things way more comfortable. Throughout long nights and staying up until 3 A.M. things get stressful and being able to get along

with my team was a really important factor. From the start my teammates have been very supported and guided me through out the way to become better and be able to manage the team efficiently, since I am the manager of the team.



My job is to keep everyone on their assigned tasks and record everything in our beloved engineering notebook. The notebook has not only become my own personal baby but, a way to demonstrate the hard work and how much dedication is given to robotics behind the scene. In my team, we are able to keep balanced tasks and everyone contributes into both, the robot and notebook. Not only do I manage the team, I also get to interact with the robot by practicing driving and create new strategies to be more efficient on the field. Being part of this team and robotics overall has taught me leadership, communication, programming, teamwork and building skills, which have brought me closer into trying to pursue a STEM related major as I go into college. I believe that having diversity in any team or organization is key to success due to things being viewed from many different perspectives. Everyone has a different personality, ideas, and style. When everything is combined into one design the robot gets to have multiple personalities and it is fair to say that at least one part of the robot is inspired by each and one of our teammates. Throughout this season we have been very successful in the competitions and coming together as a team. So far we have won the judges, think , reserve for design and excellence awards,

which qualified us for state championships. This has been one of our greatest accomplishments this season and we couldn't be more proud. My STEM role model is Chelsea Clinton because she travels around the world and inspires young girls to get involved in the STEM fields by making careers look

interesting and cool for girls. She believes that the only way to fill up those millions of STEM jobs that will open in the



future with the best and brightest people is by not leaving any gender behind. She inspires me to be my best and prove to the world and myself that it is possible to accomplish your dreams in the world of STEM. My Team and I plan to conquer this season be prepared.

I present to you,

**TEAM 8301D**



***Last Row: Kevin, Miguel    Front Row: Gabriel, Patricia, German***