**Olasayo Okegbola #9**

**Girl Powered**

Girl Powered on Robotics

Go girls! The Girl Powered Online Challenge, sponsored by Google, gives VEX Competition teams a way to demonstrate how they are fostering a positive Girl Powered experience. Through this Online Challenge, students get the opportunity to outline the steps they are taking to make their competitive robotics experience reflective of the diverse world we live in, and the one we want to leave behind. You submit your work and you have chance of winning prizes if you win third, second, or first place. Boys can also do Girl Powered, but they have a different task.

What comes to mind when I hear the phrase Girl Powered are girls building, driving, or programming robots and I picture girls at a table doing all of that. Girl Powered are engaging student minds and are putting them to great use. Girls can do anything boys can do, and Girl Powered is showing an example of that. I think that Girl Powered is a great way for students to learn, and that it helps with self esteem. Girl Power is sponsored by Google and it includes the VEX robotics competition. My STEM role model is Debbie Sterling because Sterling is an engineer, spokesperson, and one of the leading voices in the movement to encourage girls' interest in engineering and technology.

In VEX, I am considering and trying driving robots in VEX than building because I like it best. Girl Powered is also partnered with VEX robotics, which is part of the first place prize. My role model, which is Debbie Sterling, inspires me to have a more inclusive team by having faith. I will succeed in robotics by practicing, determination, and self encouragement. Girl Powered is an initiative to redefine the face of STEM. I believe that Girl Powered is to help kids take initiative and matters into their own hands. Cool right? Also, in Girl Powered, I believe you learn more about teamwork, cooperation, troubleshooting and brainstorming concepts … Together, with the support of the entire community, we strive to encourage equal participation of young women and men in competitive robotics. Girl Powered can inspire many girls to come out of their shell and open up. We want to use this challenge to show the robotics community at large just what it means to be a Girl Powered VEX Robotics Competition team. In Girl Powered VEX, you can do driving, programming, and building for robots. Girl Powered is helping me improve on cooperation, team work and brainstorming and I hope it's doing the same to others.

The benefit of having a diverse team will become apparent through my individual story. I know how to be more prepared and ready for any decisions on my team thanks to Girl Powered. I learned that if I have a diverse team, we can cooperate and brainstorm together and most likely win. Girl Powered gave me some facts and pointers that I will use for a successful team. You can do Girl Powered too! Only if you ready to follow the rules and working as a team. You are all set!