



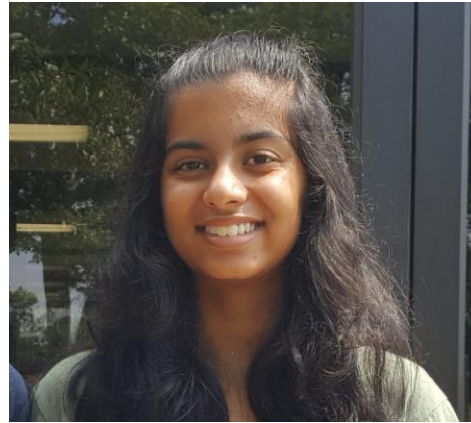
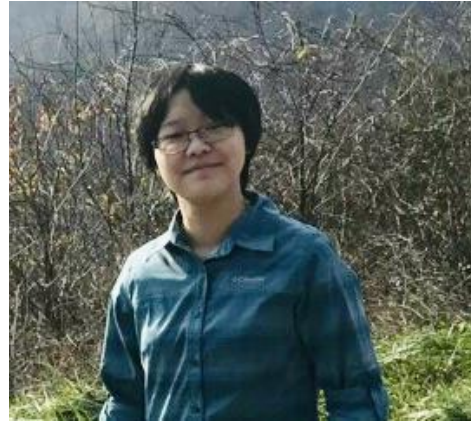
#BUILTBYGIRLS

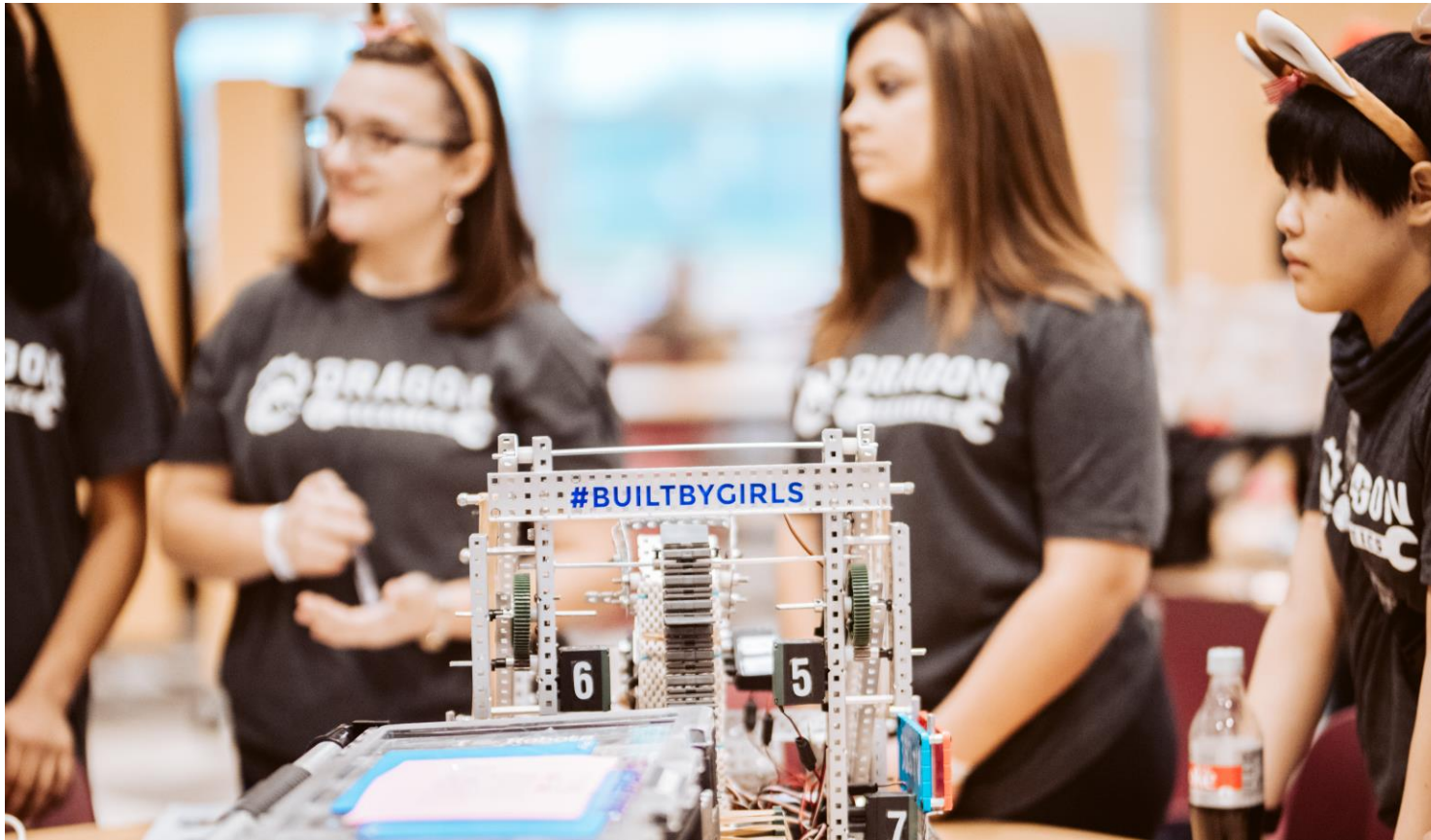
## 3631V The Vexens

Breaking the Glass Ceiling One Game at  
a Time



- **Allison Boers (bottom right)** is a sophomore at Collierville High School; she is the main journalist and builder. She wants to be an architect.
- **Ryleigh Davis (bottom left)** is a freshman at Collierville High School; she is a programmer and builder. She wants to be a biomedical engineer.
- **Meilin Melson (top left)** is a sophomore at Collierville High School; she is the main builder and wants to be a mechanical engineer.
- **Aanchal Singhal (far left In the middle)** is a sophomore at Collierville High School; she is a builder and a journalist. She wants to be a biomedical engineer.
- **Pallavi Singhal (top right)** is a sophomore at Collierville High School; she is the main programmer and builder. She wants to be a mechanical engineer.





## What Being Girl-Powered Means to Us

- Being an all-girls team, we face the idea of being a minority in our field. The VRC program is so supportive towards female engineers, and it is a huge deal. We love the idea that other young girls can be inspired by what we accomplish.
- We think girl power in engineering and the STEM field should be expanded. We work hard to prove that females in this field have every ability to do just as well as co-ed teams or all-male teams.

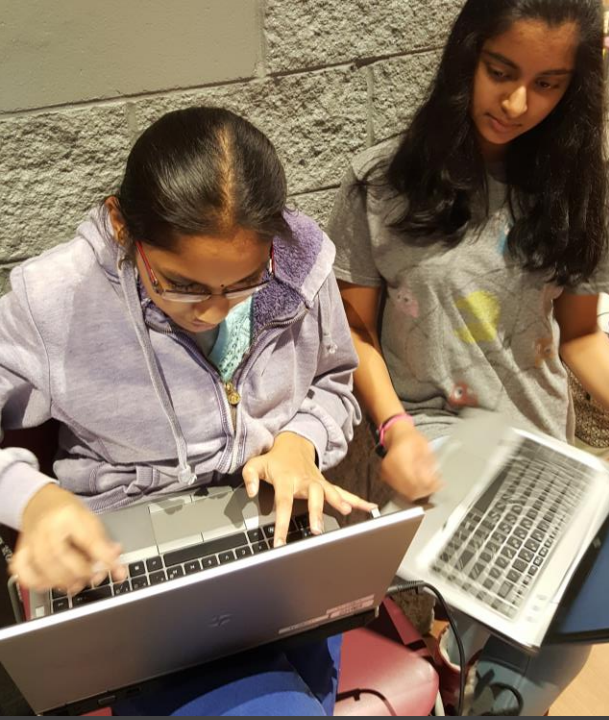


# Setbacks Associated With Being Girl-Powered

- In a largely male-dominated field of engineering, it is a huge deal to have an all-girls team; however, being girl-powered can have its setbacks due to the way people view our success.
- Over the past year and a half, our team has faced a lot of criticism as far as what awards we win, and how far we get in competitions. We remember just last month at a qualification game for States, we received the design award. A few people were adamant that we had only received the award because we were an all-girls team. We did not retaliate because we knew we had won the award because we worked hard and earned our place.
- Another issue is that people are constantly underestimating us because the female population in robotics is so small. The thought can have a detrimental effect because of the assumption that we will not be a tough competition for the other teams. However, we tend to use the criticism to show the other teams that being Girl Powered is, in fact, not a disadvantage, but a motivation!







# Community Service

- The Dragon Robotics Teams make a float for the Christmas Parade every year. This year, our teams made “Santa’s Robotics Workshop,” and it was super cute and got lots of compliments from other people.
- Our team also searches for many other opportunities to motivate the other teams in VEX. We are currently in the process of mentoring freshman teams, as well as middle school VEX teams. We love seeing these teams grow and seeing more girls enter the robotics field.



# Who Inspires Us



- Dr. Stephnie Ivey is a Civil Engineering professor for the University of Memphis. She was the founder of a camp called Girls Experiencing Engineering (GEE). We use her as our role model because she is a big supporter in girl-power.
- When we asked about what she would tell girls going into STEM she said,
- *"There will be challenges along the way, and most definitely days where you wonder if you made the right choice. But, keep in mind the tremendous opportunities that an engineering/STEM degree provides, and persist! Also, know that there will be topics that you don't understand right away, and that is fine. It doesn't mean you are not cut out for engineering - it means you are learning something new, and you have the opportunity to expand your horizons. Seek help when you need it. And, give back. It is so important to share your time and talents with others who are following in your footsteps."*





# In the Zone of Realization

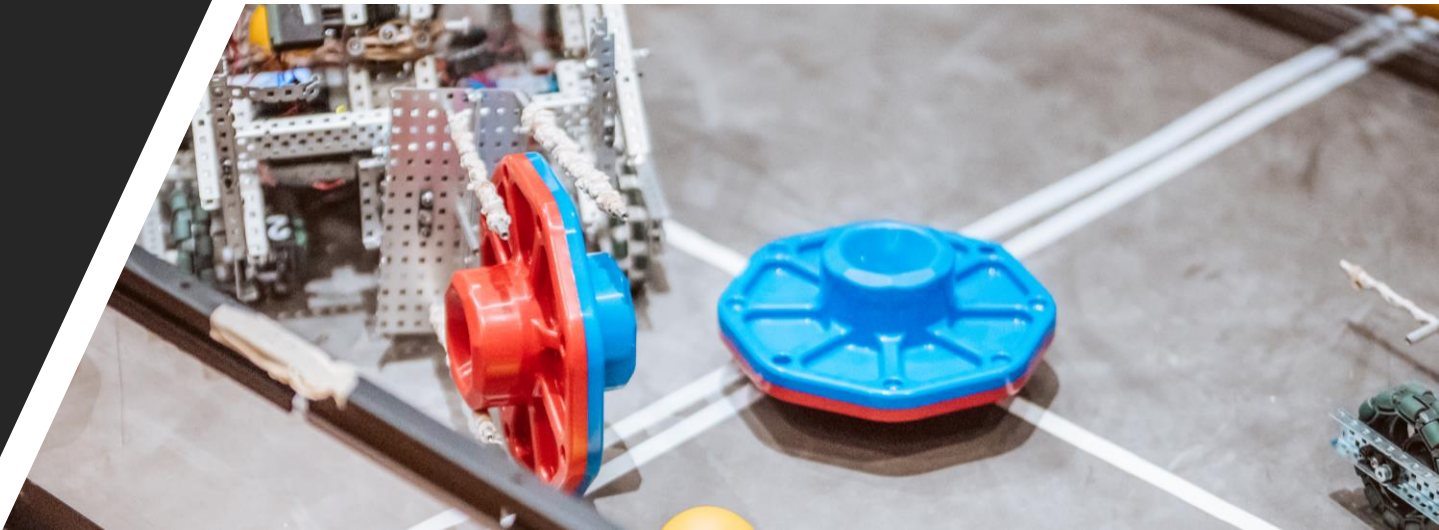
- This was the first year our team had competed in VEX. We came in believing that everyone was treated equally. Little did we know that this year was going to change our whole perspective.
- We qualified to states with the Design award and Worlds with the Excellence award.
- Although we were very excited to qualify for States through our design award, others did not think the same. We were constantly pestered by other teams. Saying that the only reason our team got an award was that we were girls! We were told that we did not deserve the award. Instead of letting these comments bring us down, we used it as a moment to motivate us. We worked extremely hard and used the Excellence award as our ticket to Worlds. We realized that girls were looked down upon and made it our mission to motivate other girls to pursue their passion, and to not let anyone bring them down.





# The Turning Point of a New Season

- Having now entered our second season of participating in Vex robotics, we were ready to take on any challenges we faced. We started strong by mentoring other teams and spreading our message of Girl Power. We took into realization that from when we started VEX to now, there are about 50% more girls in the program! We are very proud that this season we have 2 all-girls teams! So far, we have won the Innovate and Design award, and we are hoping to qualify to States and possibly Worlds! We have followed our passion, and, through perseverance, we hope to finish this season strong.





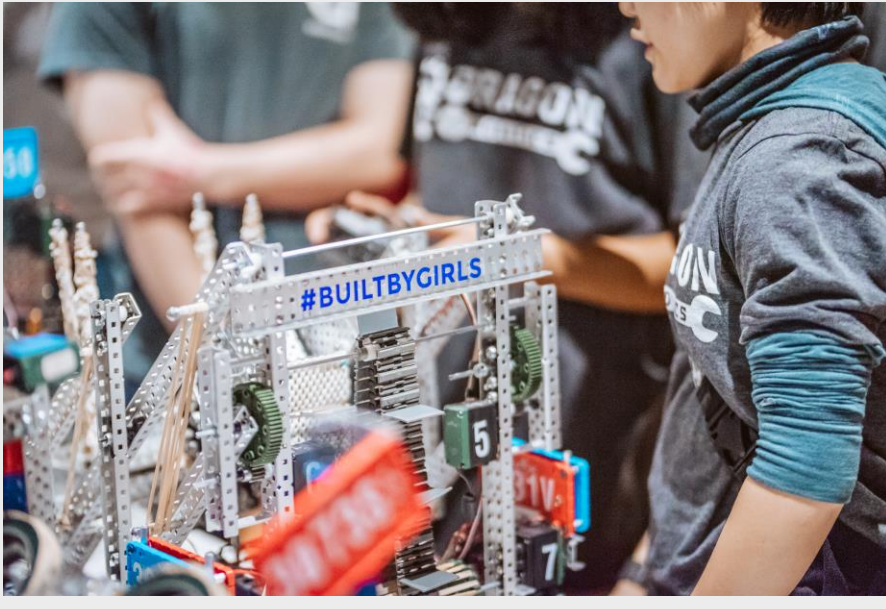
# Outreach

- We, 3631V the Vexens, take our experiences, and we try to empower other girls attempting to enter the STEM field. We want to encourage them, and we do this by using our Instagram and our Youtube channel.
- Our Youtube channel is called 3631V the Vexens.
- Our Instagram is 3631v\_Vexens.



Instagram





Credits:

Team Name: 3631V The Vexens

Title: Breaking the Glass Ceiling One Game at a Time

Team Members: Allison Boers, Ryleigh Davis, Meilin Melson, Aanchal Singhal, and Pallavi Singhal

Thank you!