

4001E

What It Means  
to Be

"Girl Powered"



Embracing diversity is incredibly important in the ever-expanding field of STEM. Different backgrounds and experiences provide different ideas and viewpoints, which enrich and empower those who choose to listen.

To our team, to be “Girl Powered” really means to have varied ideas and opinions in our team from people with different experience and backgrounds.

Our team, 4001E, has made an inclusive and diverse environment by remaining open-minded and including every member of the team. As the sophomore team of our school, we had the unique experience of going into VRC for the first time this year. This meant that we would have to program and build a robot with no prior experience. The first step, of course, was to learn.



Each member of the team took this time to find out what they excel in and what they can improve upon.

Udit, already having experience with programming, naturally took that role in our team. His skills allowed him to more easily learn and utilise the RobotC language and begin developing code for our robot.

Gabe works on our shooting system, as well as the other systems we employ. He is skilled at working with the VEX parts and can apply his knowledge from in-school engineering classes to better develop the robot.



Sanjiv worked mainly on our lift system while it was in design and now assists in all of the building projects on our robot. Like majority of our team, he has taken engineering classes which make the design process and engineering overall more familiar.



Eric also does building, and was the main contributor to our drive train, as well as sketching and work on the notebook. He has taken engineering classes in school and is great at problem-solving.

Teja is skilled in math and science, and this makes him the ideal team member to complete calculations and let the rest of us know whether or not what we intend on doing with the robot is possible.



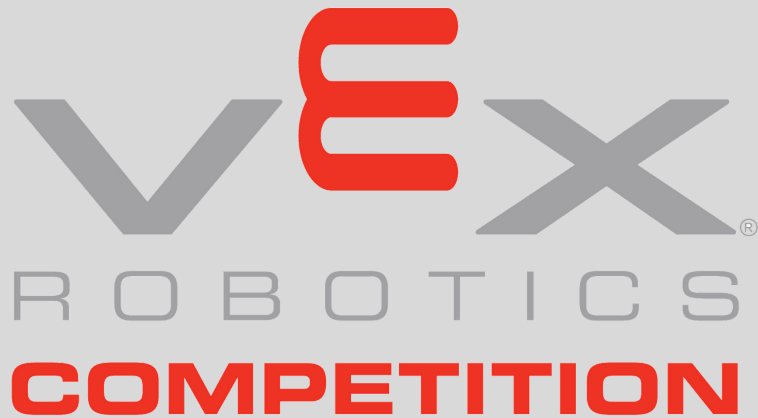
# Meaghan



I have prior experience in engineering classes, and have always enjoyed the challenge of creating something that will achieve a set goal.

When I was younger, I built two versions of an elevator for my history class, one ancient and one modern. I greatly enjoyed finding out how to make the system work. In science, I always loved coming up with unique ways to solve a problem in labs and classwork. For all my life, I was notable in my classes, and greatly encouraged to pursue a career and activities in STEM.

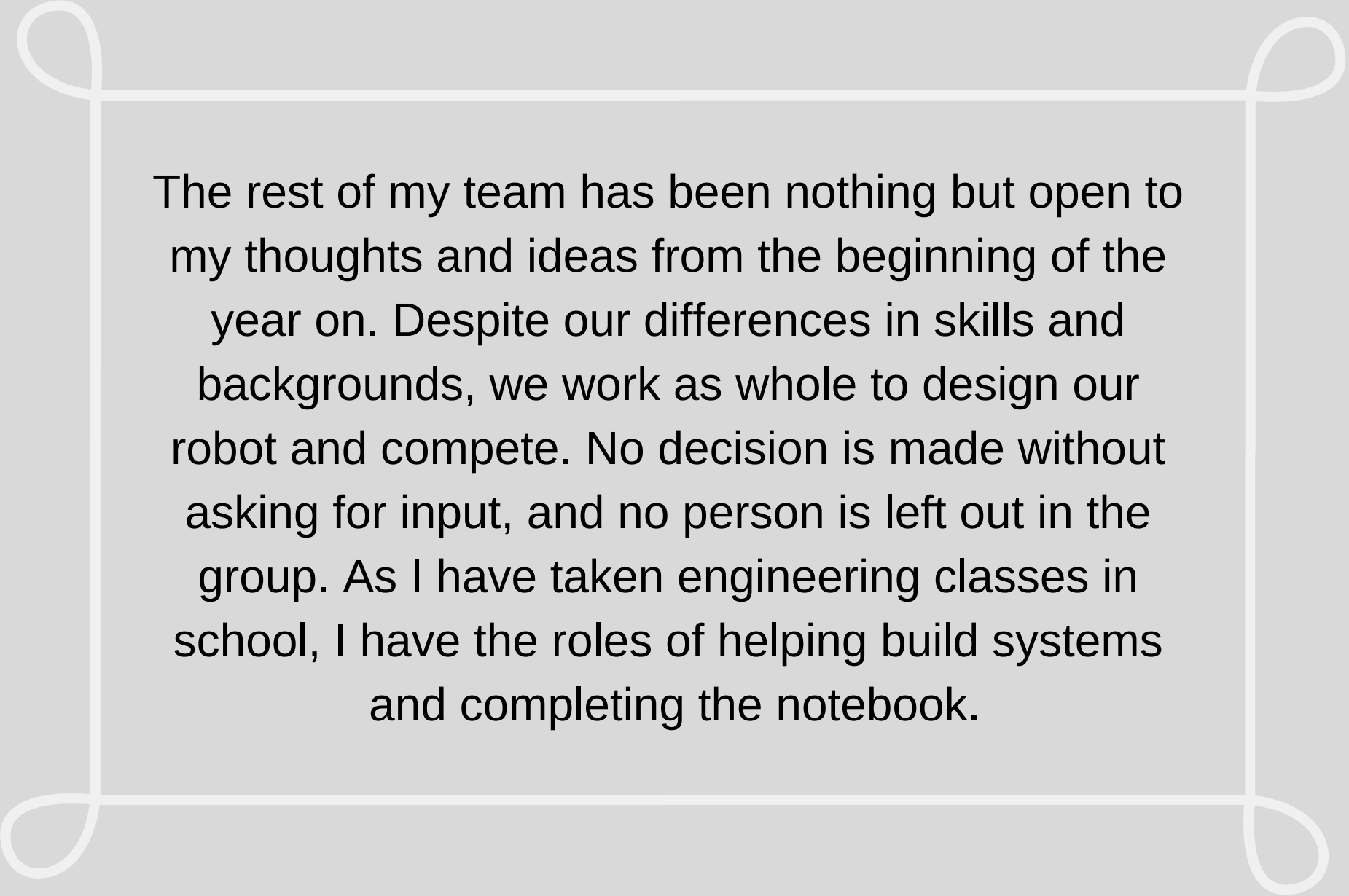
Joining my school's engineering club to compete in VEX was an entirely different sort of experience. I was joining a group of equally skilled peers to work together in a setting competitive on the world level.



Being the sole girl on our team, I was a bit nervous coming in to the club.



As a somewhat quiet person, especially among people I am unfamiliar with, my biggest fear was that I would not be taken seriously, especially given that my team would be all male besides me. To my luck and satisfaction, my worries were entirely false.



The rest of my team has been nothing but open to my thoughts and ideas from the beginning of the year on. Despite our differences in skills and backgrounds, we work as whole to design our robot and compete. No decision is made without asking for input, and no person is left out in the group. As I have taken engineering classes in school, I have the roles of helping build systems and completing the notebook.

To be “Girl Powered” is more than just including girls on the team. It is creating an environment where diversity is encouraged and accepted on the level of ideas and perspectives of the team.

Diversity is not a setback, or a limitation, but instead an opportunity. Google's Girl Powered initiative uses this opportunity to encourage girls to participate in STEM, a practice which has historically revolutionized the field.

One such example is Lise Meitner. The second woman to achieve a doctorate degree from the University of Vienna, Meitner went on to work on the team which discovered nuclear fission. Her and her team cooperated well despite their differences and made a discovery that changed the world, allowing for the possibilities of cleaner energy or a darker route of nuclear weaponry.

Even after making such an influential and powerful discovery, Meitner stuck to her morals, remaining openly against the use of nuclear fission for bombs. Her strength and unwillingness to give up on her beliefs are what make Meitner an excellent STEM role model, and a great example of what being "Girl Powered" can do.



# Credits

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**Team:** 4001E

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