

After the heated #metoo movement it feels like women are moving up in the world, but men still dominate the STEM field. That's the past though and women are entering the STEM field in numbers never before seen. I want to be apart of that change and I think that many young women are also taking part in STEM. Women are no longer defined by society, nor should they be.

When I hear the phrase "girl powered", I think of the hordes of women entering the STEM field and the young girls learning to enjoy STEM. I personally have gotten the opportunity to learn and love robotics and engineering. I have gotten to learn so much thanks to VEX, hour of code, and my schools invention class. I think of a girl who is powerful in her own right. I think of a woman who doesn't care about society, and breaks the chains that use to define women. That's what "girl powered" means to me.



Our team has tried to become more inclusive and has diversified how we listen to each other. I think that we have learned to treat others as equals. When we took the initiative to change our methods of communication, we had to iron out complications in our plan, but after this we were having a better team experience.

We have all also tried different positions on the team. When we tried switching main drivers our robot did not do well, but we needed that experience to choose our main drivers now. Without the chance to try to be main drivers I would not know that I would be bad at driving. I ended up being one of the builders with my other male counterpart. We have 2 guys and 2 girls, and we have all tried different positions of the team. VEX rewards teamwork, and part of that is figuring out where you work best. Our team works much better with all of us knowing where we do best.



Diversity in perspective changes our chemistry dramatically. Different perspectives enhances the chemistry of a team, and introduces new ideas. Different perspectives also takes what ideas you already have and betters a idea. Everybody has had different life experiences, that changes your ideas and how you approach a problem. When everybody approaches the problem in the same way there will be no variance in the design or plan. You wouldn't be able to refine or open up your mind to new ideas. We are able to succeed thanks to our chemistry, and our different perspectives. We are individuals and we all bring something new to the table.

My role model in STEM is Alexis Scott, she was named one of Dallas's hidden figures, and she has spoken extensively on the subject of empowerment and young women entering STEM fields. She has inspired our entire team to make a more inclusive program and team. After viewing her TED talk on the hidden woman of STEM, I realized that I should be more vocal on

my VEX team. I never really spoke up on my team, but when I did I saw more of my ideas implemented on to the bot. My team was accepting of my ideas and the other girl on our team.

Credits

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