

3631 V The Vexens

Breaking the Glass Ceiling One Game
at a Time



Meet our Team!

- **Aanchal Singhal (far left)** is a Junior at Collierville High School; she is a builder and a journalist. She wants to be a biomedical engineer.
- **Sanika Rudraraju (next to Aanchal)** is a freshman at Collierville High she the main journalist and she wants to be a doctor
- **Pallavi Singhal (next to Sanika)** is a Junior at Collierville High School; she is the main programmer and builder. She wants to be a mechanical engineer.
- **Allison Boers (next to Pallavi)** is a Junior at Collierville High School; she is a main builder. She wants to be an architect.
- **Meilin Melson (far right next to Allison)** is a Junior at Collierville High School; she is the main builder and 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.
What Being Girl-Powered Means to Us

Setbacks Associated with Being Girl-Power



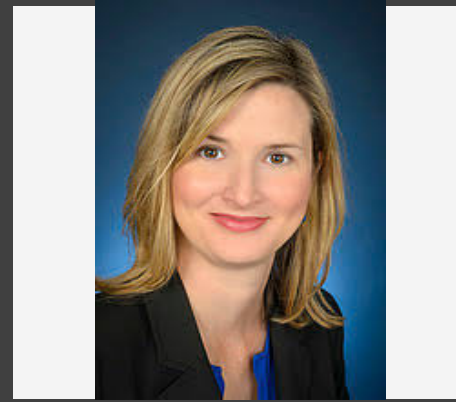
- In a largely male-dominated field of engineering, it is a huge deal to have an all-girls team; however, being girl-powered can have its setbacks due to the way people view our success.
- Over the past year and a half, our team has faced a lot of criticism as far as what awards we win, and how far we 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.



Community Service

- Aanchal, Pallavi, Allison, Sanika and Mei Lin, went to local middle school. (West Collierville Middle) to help with their new vex program. the Vexens, mentored the 4 teams every Thursday and we helped and guided them through the design process, early stages of their builds. Every year dragon robotics participates in our annual Christmas parade. Our team along with the rest of dragon robotics, actively helps assemble and build the float every year. By marching in the parade dragon robotics is able to showcase and represent our robotics program to the community.
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- Every year our school hosts a stem night, where people from our community come and gain exposure with all of the stem related clubs our school has to offer by speaking and giving demonstrations to parents and children. This helps spread stem and robotics awareness throughout the community. Like wise dragon robotics, also set up a booth at the local fair on the square. Here we helped sell dragon robotics merchandise, to help support our program. Not only do we show our support for EDr but we also show support for Vex IQ. 3 of our members, Allison, Aanchal, And Pallavi volunteered at 2 different VEX IQ tournaments; as judges Our school hosts many vex regional qualifiers throughout the year. We love to help our school get ready for these competitions by helping setting up the fields, taking care of the technology aspect. We were invited to showcase our robotics program at the Memphis light gas and water (MLGW) convention. Here we gave presentations about Vex and robotics in general.

Who Inspires Us



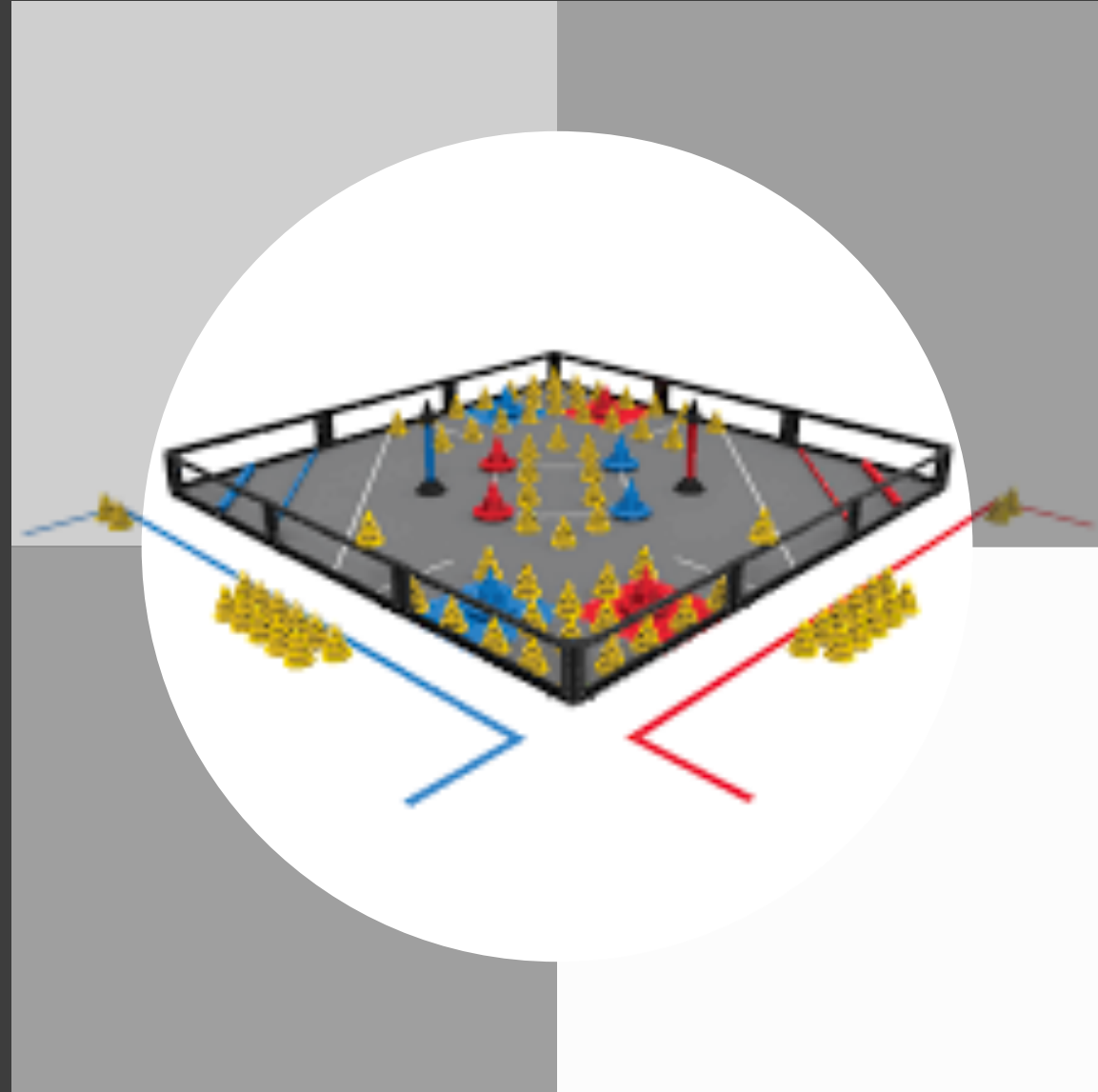
- Dr. Stephnie Ivey is a Civil Engineering professor for the University of Memphis. She was the founder of a camp called Girls Experiencing Engineering (GEE). We use her as our role model because she is a big supporter in girl-power.

When we asked about what she would tell girls going into STEM she .

- *"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 Relization

- 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.



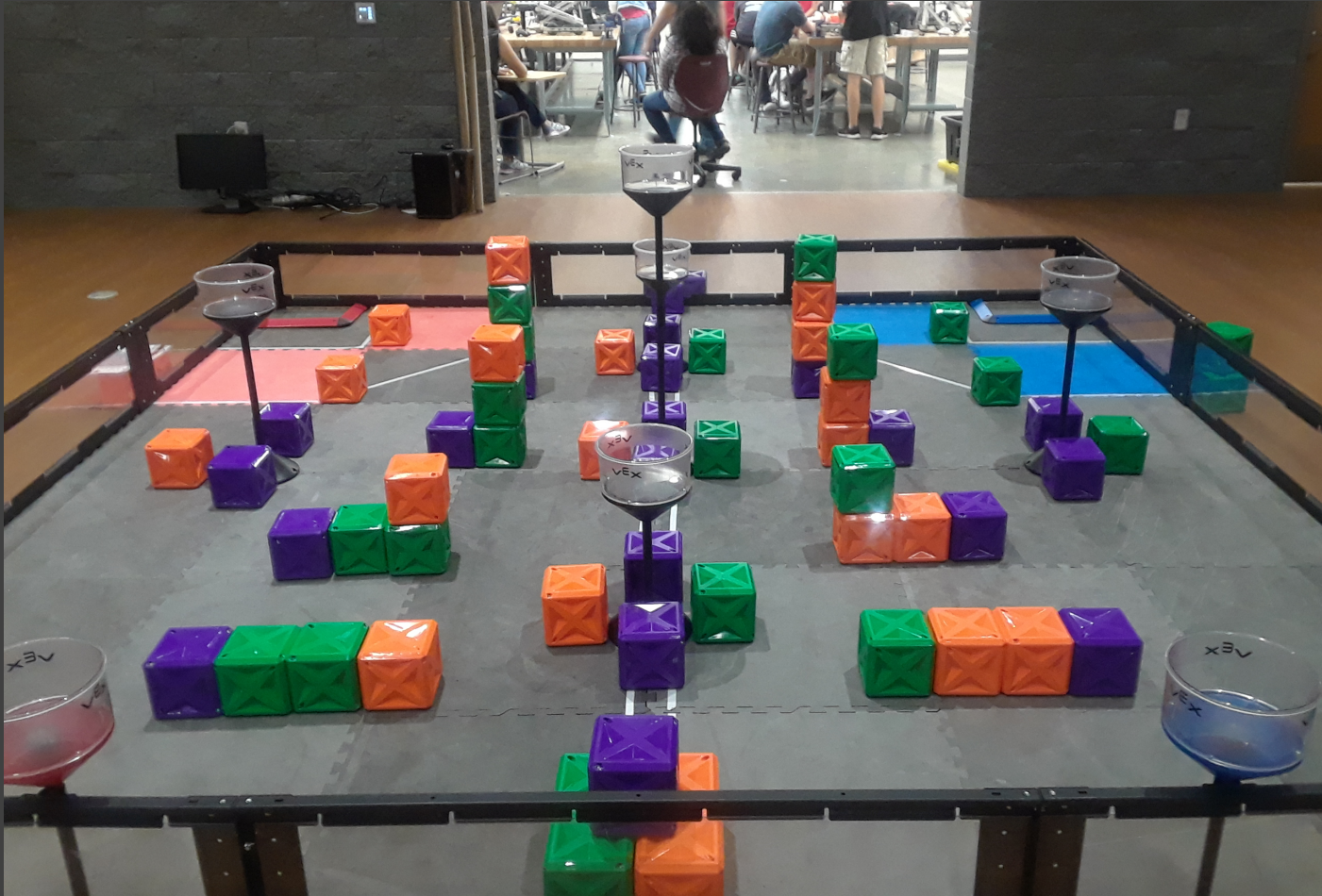


The Turning Point of a Great Season



- 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! We have won the Innovate and Design award, Excellence twice, and tournament champions. This got us to states and in states we got sportsmanship!! We have followed our passion, and, through perseverance, Making this season a memorable one

Taking over the competition with Tower Take over



- This has been by far our best season, with drastic journal and building improvements, we qualified to states in our first competition. We qualified through skills. We also had our second competition and in that we got second in skills and even 4th in the whole competition! We also ended up getting the design award! So far this season has been amazing and we hope to do our best in states!

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.



Thank You!

Credits:

Team Name: 3631V The Vexens

Title: Breaking the Glass Ceiling One Game at a Time

Team Members: Allison Boers, Sanika Rudraraju
Meilin Melson, Aanchal Singhal, and Pallavi Singhal

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