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Career Readiness

For this essay I choose the STEM company Lozier. I choose this company for multiple reasons. For one, they hire many students from my high school, and they donate a lot of money to us. Another reason I choose this company is their headquarters are here in Omaha, Nebraska where I live and have offered me a job. Luckily for me I happened to do a job shadow with them this past summer and got to witness how they use the design process.

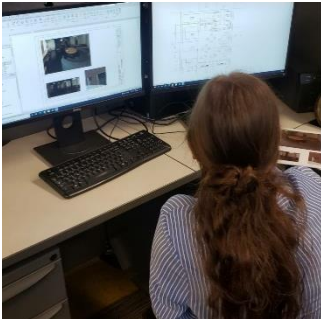


I have wanted to be a product design engineer for a while and that was the position I was able to shadow during my visit. They use the same engineering design process we use in VEX; Define the problem, Generate Concepts, Develop a Solution, Construct and Test Prototype, and Evaluate Solution. At Lozier the Product Designers use this process to design shelves and checkout solutions.

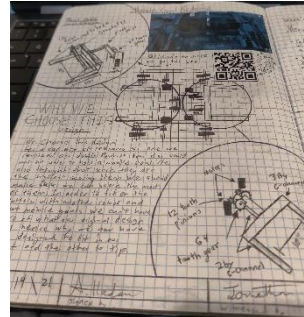
First, they are given an offer from a business and work with them to figure out the design criteria and constraints, from there they will come up with ideas and bounce multiple concepts to the business. After that, the company will give them things they like and don't about each. This allows for Lozier to then come up with a final concept they can build and prototype. The company will then come into Lozier look at the prototype, see if they like it, if so then it will be mass manufactured there at Lozier.

Although VEX does a great job creating almost a perfect replica of real-life STEM jobs, they are missing one key component. Here at North and especially on my team we do a great deal of 3-D rendering and other manufacturing processes through CREATE OPEN robotics and our other engineering

classes. However, VEX itself doesn't have any requirements or recommendations for things like that. At Lozier I was told that due to my knowledge in Inventor, CAD, and manufacturing that I am very far ahead of other students. VEX's goal is to make more students career ready, yet now that the world is moving more digital and companies are wanting more online rendering and technical drafting skills, we don't learn how to incorporate those things into our notebook.



(Figure 1.1) Me working at KPE using my technical drafting skills



(Figure 1.2) A page of my design notebook

Thanks to VEX Robotics and many other engineering classes and clubs, my resume is full of many skills most students don't have, I have had multiple job offers, and have learned not only about teamwork but problem solving and communication as well. Which are the most important soft skills you can learn.

I do not know if it is okay to add QR codes, but I thought it would help explain things better by being able to show how I use the design process in my VEX robotics engineering notebook. The QR code on the left is a link to my digital notebook I am beta testing for VEX and on the right is just a link to Lozier's website that way if you have never heard of them, you can see what they do. Since they provide shelves to all of Walmart's, targets and many other stores, yet none of my friends have heard of them.

