

GirlPowered Essay  
45009Y, The VEXcellent 5  
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Engineer Stacey DelVecchio once said “I wish people would stop being impressed by the fact that I’m a woman engineer. We want it to be normal to see beautiful, social, intelligent women out there that are engineers.” This quote goes to show how male dominated the engineering field is and how in later years women all around the world can and will become our future.

In today's society, women are more involved in the engineering field as well as more empowered but unfortunately it hasn't always been this way. The engineering and science jobs have always been seen as jobs for men and although it has gotten better over the years, we haven't yet reached equality. When there are female engineers working with men, the women are often under-estimated simply because of their gender. This means that they are either put in charge of the less important tasks or no tasks at all. Women have often proven that they are capable of performing these jobs which can hopefully lead us to a more inclusive work environment.

As students from an all girl school, we have gone through experiences that have shown us how challenging the field can be. While competing with other teams mostly composed of males, we have struggled to prove what we can do and that we can do it just as well as they can. We are often thought of as less intelligent and less capable which only pushes us to do better. Through our robotics journey, we've had to learn how



to work as a team and help each other with every role to gain knowledge in all areas. While we do have our struggles, we truly believe that this only makes us stronger and helps us grow.

Women around the world frequently demonstrate that gender and race should not be a barrier for success. An example of such is Gina Elizabeth Moreno, programmer from El Paso, Texas. She obtained her bachelor's degree in

Industrial Engineering and a Masters in systems engineering. Before getting to where she is now, she took initiative and spoke up for misrepresented communities all around the world. She began by using her TedX page to make a video, “Empowering Latina Women in STEM & Leadership”, to inspire and motivate a diverse group of women to work towards the STEM field. Today she is a programmer at Microsoft and a career coach for young women.

Unfortunately, Latino women are often underrepresented and unappreciated in the engineering world compared to other ethnic groups. We think that this is a change that should be made because only 12% of the Latinx community are choosing to obtain degrees in STEM fields. As a robotics team composed of five latinass, we feel that there

needs to be more representation and someone to look up to in this field. The GirlPowered organization has given us many good examples to idolize and look up to. Having a role model can make a huge difference and help us realize that if people with similar backgrounds as ours can achieve this, so can we.

Being a female and part of a minority group in a male dominated work field can be challenging, but it can also be very rewarding. With our journey, we hope to inspire future generations of female leaders and engineers to strive for success.