



Girl  Powered[®]

 It's Time to Change the Status Quo 

8787A



A Role Model in STEM

When thinking of a role model in STEM many think of someone like Dorothy Vaughan or Katherine Johnson and although they are inspirational with great influence our team thinks of a role model that we can relate more closely toward. That is Elaine Renteria. The first time I met Ms. Renteria was when I was taking dance classes at Eastwood. I remember hearing about her journey of becoming a certified engineer at the University of Texas at El Paso and I felt inspired. Not only had she been a dancer, she was a female from a hispanic community. Later, I along with the other members of the team had her as a teacher for a class called “Principles of Applied Engineering”. She created an environment where we are engaged and ready to succeed in an increasingly progressive world. Her class is a place where women are not systemically pushed away from pursuing STEM instead it is a place where anyones abilities are not underestimated simply because of their gender. She has taught us a lot about how diversity of perspective allows for creative thinking which is important for problem solving. Overall, Ms. Renteria has inspired us to have a more inclusive team and in our opinion embodies all the requirements of a role model in STEM.

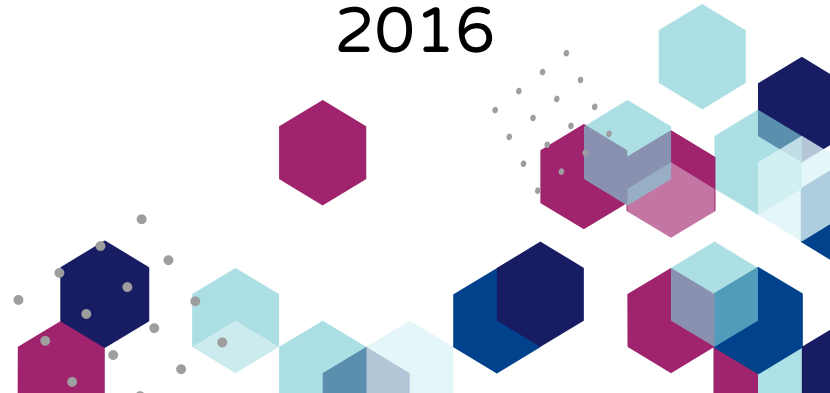


Changing the Status Quo One Girl at a Time

For years I had been reluctant to join robotics or demonstrate interest in STEM because of the unrelenting stigma around being a female. I did not want to be thought of as weird or inferior and feared if I was not better than the boys I wouldn't be contributing to the Girl Powered initiative. Attending the Girl Powered conference at Eastwood in 2016 changed my perspective. When I hear the term "Girl Powered" I don't think of females being greater than men, but rather ending gender inequality. As a team we think of empowerment and honoring the efforts of women. We believe it is uplifting females to keep interest and change the status quo from 29% to 50% women working in STEM. Girl Powered is encouraging diversity and making anyone feel like they belong. Joining Eastwood Robotics has allowed me to help create change.



2016



Change in Numbers

BEFORE



NOW



Over the years I have seen the “change in numbers” of the involvement of women in STEM. Two years ago members in Eastwood Robotics were 61% male and only 39% female and now with the movement of Girl Powered growing we have 50% male and 50% female members working alongside.

“Progress is Impossible Without Change”

The goal of team 8787A is to make a difference within our community and contribute toward changing the status quo. For too long men have been dominating the STEM field and women have been underrepresented. Part of our constant strive for equality is fundraising year round to be able to fund our annual Girl Powered conference. In this conference hundreds of young girls learn how to build, program, problem solve, and much more. We hope to provide them with confidence and show how women have the power to change the world. This movement assists girls to not feel obligated to conform to the unjust expectations placed by society and keep their interest in STEM. Now being able to have helped run Girl Powered I hope to have made an impact as it did on me when I attended. Beyond Girl Powered our team takes initiative throughout our community by giving presentations to schools in our district demonstrating the strength of trying new things and stepping out of their comfort zone. Through all of these events we hope to not only inspire young girls but engage other students and mentors toward creating a more diverse and inclusive field.





At the “Tipping Point”


When we first came together as a team there were no designated roles. We all were given the opportunity to try out various aspects of robotics, such as programming, CADing, Building, Engineering Notebook design, Driving, etc..We all are different individually and range from members with no experience to members who have been competing for years. All the new members are encouraged to try and be able to successfully work in any aspect of robotics, so that when an alternate is needed there is one ready to work. Our team doesn't stay with one role for all tournaments and we can all contribute toward the overall product of our robots success.



Power of Differences

Our team is a unique group consisting of 4 girls and 2 guys. Having a team with the majority being girls, the term “Girl Powered” is emphasized more than ever. This affects our approach toward robotics by making efforts to ensure that each member is presented with equal opportunities to reach our common goal of success. Although there are only 2 guys we make sure their voices are equally heard. We take everyone's ideas into consideration which allows for a creative outlook toward our robots design and our approach toward a challenge. Without diversity of perspective we wouldn't be able to work to the best of our ability due to the reason that we all have different experiences. We have been able to find strength in our differences and this has helped with our team chemistry. With our great team chemistry we were able to work together and problem solve to all contribute to our engineering notebook and robot design. In the end we were able to succeed in our first tournament to win skills and excellence.





“The beauty of the world lies in the
diversity of its people”
—Unknown

The Girls Creating Greatness

Jaely Quiroz



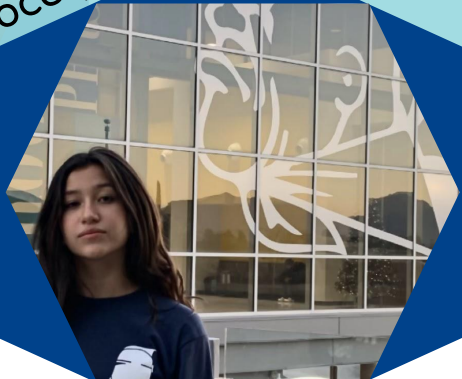
Jazlyn Gameros



Natalie Roberts



Jocelyn Perez



The Guys Generating Success

Julian Torres



Kaleb Roberts





The End

8787 "A" team that strives to change the status quo



Title of Submission: It's Time to Change the Status Quo

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Location: El Paso, Texas