



Girl Powered: Increasing Diversity in Robotics



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What is "Girl Powered"?

For me, "Girl Powered" is about encouraging more females to involve themselves in the STEM field and narrow the gender gap to a more equal ratio. I believe a "Girl Powered" team isn't an environment where only females are welcomed, but a community where **EVERYONE's** voice regardless of sexuality is respected and treated with **equality**.

I envision myself belonging in someplace where as a female representative, our voices will not be ignored or silenced, but heard and welcomed by the robotics community, regardless of what race, sexuality or religion we identify as. 82855S, my team, is what made this vision, and what made "Girl Powered" a reality for me. My previous experience with robotics in elementary school several years ago wasn't pleasant, as I was the only girl and would always be ignored in any group, which resulted in me dropping out of robotics. Now in high school, I've been given another opportunity, my team is diverse as it **consists of female, male and non-binary students**, who all respect each other. I have never felt more welcomed by a group of people, that feeling of actually "being a part of something" made me realize everything would be different this time.





Inclusivity in the team

Our team has an **inclusive atmosphere**, because everyone on our team treats each other equally with **respect** as a team member. **No one** is treated with higher dignity, because of their **gender**, **race**, **ethnicity or even experience in robotics**. Our opinions will NEVER be put down for ANY REASON, much less based on our gender or for not being as experienced in robotics as someone else. In 82855S we all have a common goal: We're all ready to fall together and then pick each other back up. Pushing each other down was and never will be an option in our team.

Diversity is reflected in our team's approach to robotics, because our team members consists of students that specialize in different roles and have different skill levels in robotics. Our team also consist of members that identify as male, female and non-binary, **everyone is welcomed** no matter what your background is or how much experience of robotics you have. Having a **strong passion** and dedication to learn are the qualities we will always welcome.



Variety in Roles

Our team has members who specialize in specific roles, such as programming, but we're inclusive because **we will never restrict these roles** to a designated individual. 82855S is actually the newest and least experienced team in our Robotics club, so the process of trying a variety of roles has been an **exciting experience** for everyone. Out of our 8 total team members, everyone has had the opportunity to experience what it's like to work in several different roles they **don't main or specialize in**. Girl's are often put into roles that don't contribute directly towards the robot, such as scouting, journaling or public representatives, as if they weren't even capable of contributing in the first place. Through trying different roles, I've found I enjoy working in hardware (which is now my main role), which I would have never known if I wasn't open to variety. This not only **broadens** and **expands** each person's knowledge and perspectives of robotics, but also gives us a better understanding on how to take on this year's challenge.



The Power in Diversity of Perspective

Diversity of perspective changes gives us the chance to collect a variety of feedback and information from different people, which allows us to not only constantly improve the **design** of our bot, but improve our own skills, efficiency, and teamwork. We're always improving and learning from each other, since we're constantly hearing different opinions and critiques to improve our design, we're increasing our ability to **succeed** together as well. We are a robotics **TEAM** afterall.







Team Chemistry

What makes the chemistry in 82855S so special is that we're not **JUST** team members, students and passionate learners, but we're **friends**. Our **diverse perspectives** and inclusive interactions make us very comfortable around each other and is what attracts a diverse group of students to our team. Some people may be hesitant to give feedback to a friend, but we're all about achieving our goals. We may also be friends, but we **never hesitate to critique** each other or share our honest opinions because we know we're in an **inclusive environment**. Issues and feedback are discussed together as a team to optimize solutions from **different perspectives** and it's often in these discussions we have that we find a better and more efficient solution. **Communication** is key and we're always bouncing our ideas off each other, which is what brought us here today.





STEM Role Model



"I never felt I was promoted or demoted because I was a woman"

–Helen Irene Battle

Helen Irene Battle

Helen Irene Battle is who we look up to as a STEM Role, thanks to her achievements in the field and demonstration of leadership. In 1928 She was the first Canadian woman to earn a Ph.D. in marine biology. A scholarship for Zoology students was made inspired by her name and she received the Canadian Centennial Medal. Throughout her career she taught over 4500 students and was considered one of Canada's most gifted teachers, she was especially committed to encouraging her female students to pursue further education. Helen said "I never felt I was promoted or demoted because I was a woman" and that sentence has inspired my team, because it's the environment we strive to become and is the environment my team strives to change the robotics community into, a place where equality is recognized. To us, Helen Irene Battle is the epitome example of "Girl Powered".

Works Cited

 "Helen Irene Battle (1903-1994) | CWSE-ON."
www.cwse-on.ca/canadian-women/211-helene-irene-battle-1903-1994



Credits

- Title: "Girl Powered: Increasing Diversity in Robotics"
- Team number: 82855S
- Author: Selina Ou
- Location of team: Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada
- Girl Powered Assets: VEX Robotics, RECF
- Template: Slidesgo



