

SPIN UP THE NARRATIVE

WRITTEN BY

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WORD COUNT: 1430



WE ARE LIMITLESS ROBOTICS

My name is Jeanelle, I am from San Diego, California and I am 13 years old and in 8th grade. I am on 948J, Limitless, a high school VRC team. My older brother, Jesse, is the other half of our team, and he is 15 and in 10th grade. This is our second time competing in VRC and we are so excited to compete again!



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After my first season of VRC, I was inspired to make complex robots and to work with my peers, but when trying to relate to the other boys in local competitions, it was difficult to connect with them.

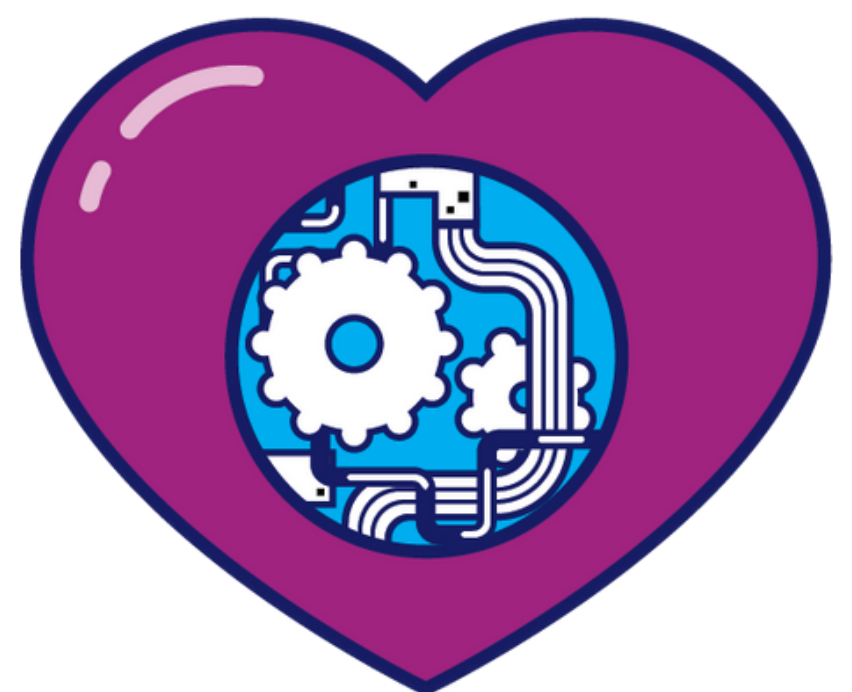


When I looked around, I saw that boys greatly outnumbered the girls. At each tournament I desperately wanted to meet more girls to interact with, especially ones that I could compete and network with. I realized that there was still so much work to do in our communities.

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I may be young, but that will never stop my pursuit for more inclusivity. I want to help empower girls to reach beyond their wildest dreams and seek a higher level of competition to show the world that **our potential is limitless**. I want to show girls all over the world that **every moment is an opportunity to rewrite the narrative and to insert themselves into the world that they want to create**.



WHAT GIRL POWERED MEANS TO ME

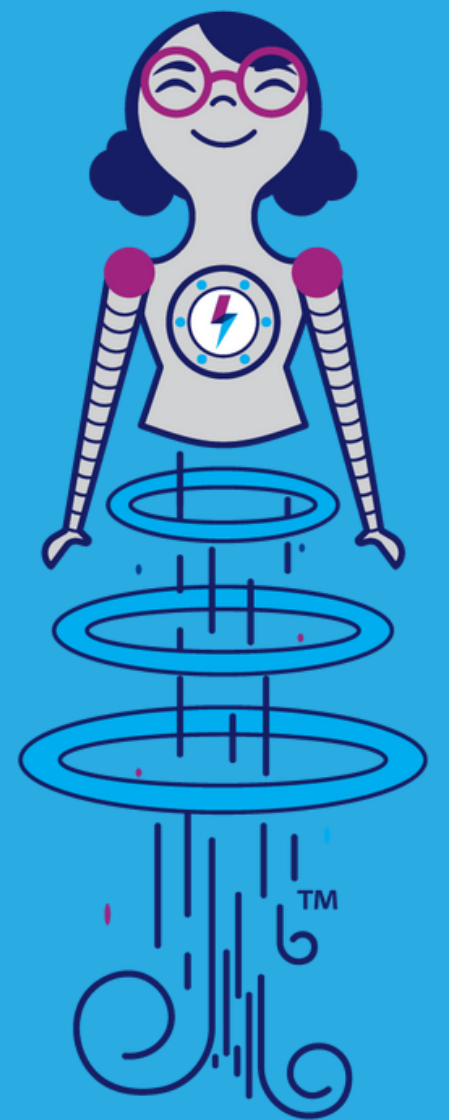
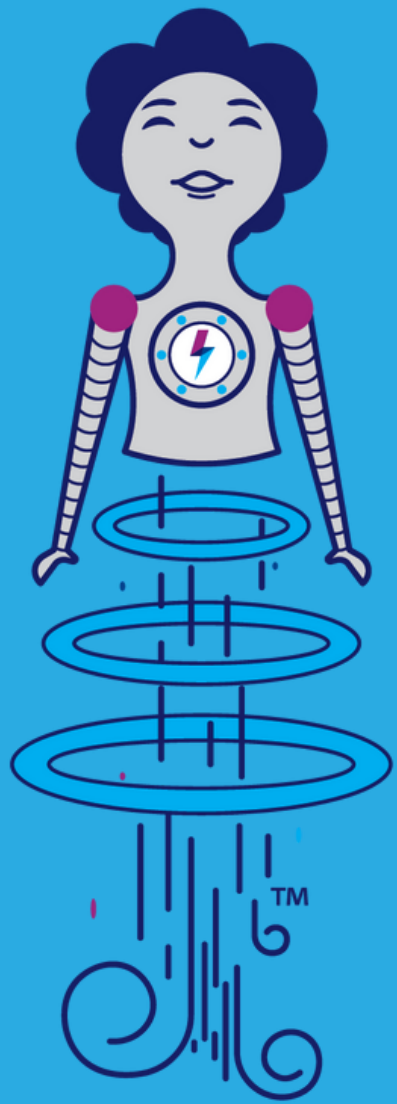


Girls and women face hardship and discrimination in every industry, so it is important to celebrate Girl Powered. To me, **Girl Powered is the empowerment that women throughout the entire world share with other girls.** Even with overwhelming male presence, incredible women are able to show their true capabilities with the Girl Powered Initiative.

In many industries, it is very hard for women to stand out or be more successful than men with the same job. Girl Powered impacts my approach to robotics because **my goal is to inspire girls like me to not be afraid of entering male-dominated industries.** To do this, we host STEM workshops and mentoring sessions for girls.

We try to **empower girls to challenge themselves** and repress any fear they may be feeling, and to take brave leaps in order to reach beyond anything they could have previously dreamed of. Girl Powered is the perfect way to do it. Now isn't the time for complacency, I want to help work as hard as I can to help girls "Spin Up" the narrative.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT



As a Filipino, Mexican, and Native American girl, it is incredibly important to me that I see **lots of representation around me**. I am someone who often gets **overlooked** because of race and gender, and I want to keep others from experiencing that too. We strive to **include many girls** in our teams and workshops because we want to show them that **nothing is impossible if you set your mind to it**, and they don't have to be afraid of doing what people say they cannot.

OUR VOICE IS HEARD

Having a well-rounded team is incredibly important, and it can become a stronger team when everyone is aware of what they are best at and what they love to do the most! We always **encourage our teammates** to experiment and test out different roles on our team to discover what they are best at.

After many seasons of trial and error, I have found that **I love doing the engineering notebook because of its many creative aspects.** I love art, analysis, and documenting, so this role is what is best for me. I also use Agile Project Management to manage our team, and I am a specialist builder that focuses on lifts, intakes, and scoring elements.

My other teammate, Jesse, loves to play video games and has exceptional motor skills, so he has taken a stronger liking to driving and building. Even with our preferences, we still love to dip our toes into other pools of engineering and creativity because to us, **robotics is all about the experience and learning new concepts.**



This approach taught us the **value of taking risks as well as perseverance**. We learned that when we try out new roles they aren't always the perfect fit for us, and that's okay too. For example, I programmed for a whole season, and even though I prefer other roles I am glad I **challenged myself and learned how** to program because it's something that I can take with me in the future. **The skills that we're learning now help us in all areas of life.**



DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVE

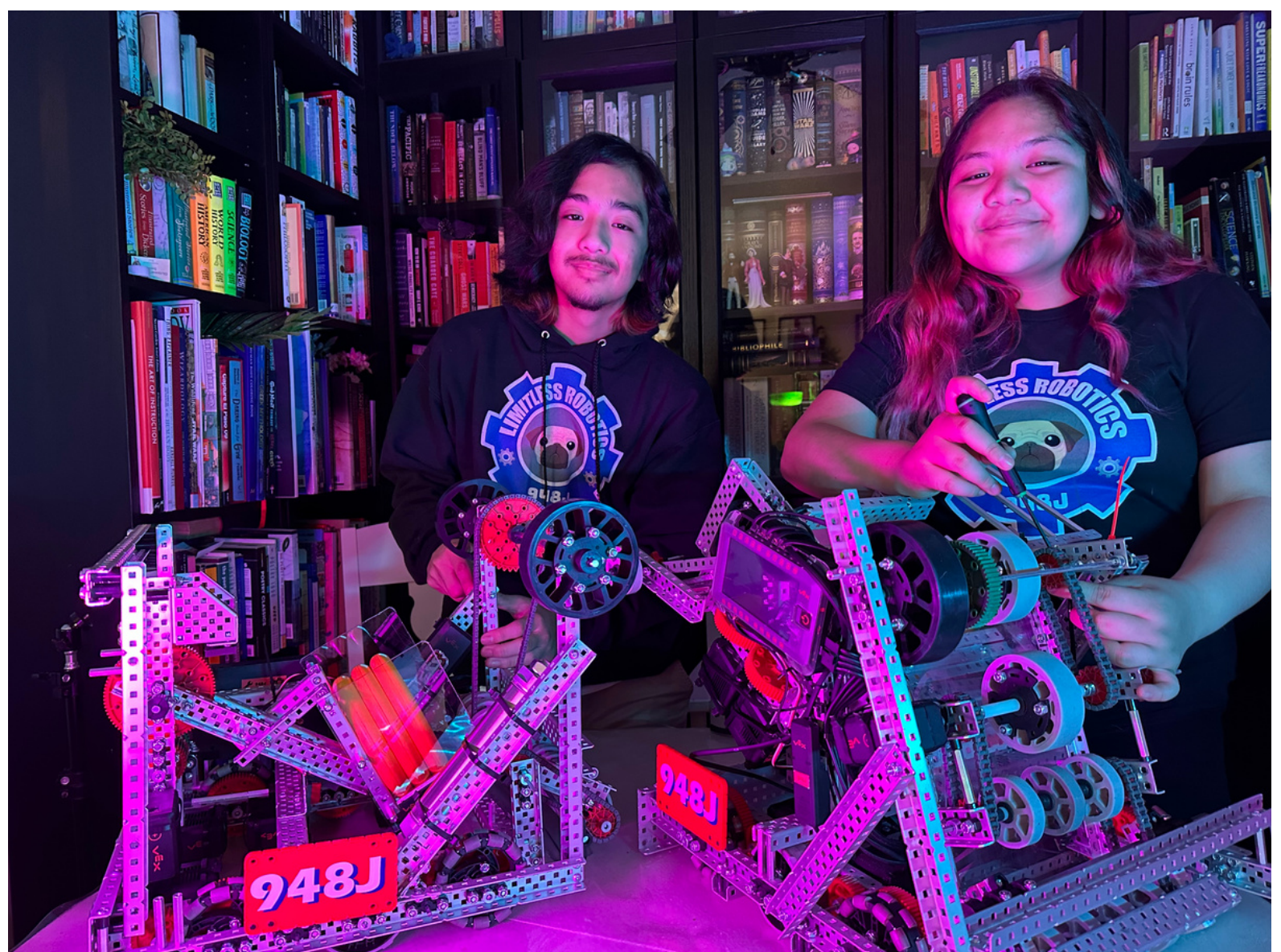
Diversity of perspective is why it's so important for us to show other races and genders the incredible aspects of STEM. Robotics **isn't just about the competition**. The process of learning is ultimately more important than winning a trophy. Our mission as a Girl-Powered team is to **bring traditionally underrepresented people**, who have not been exposed to STEM or robotics, **to a new and creative stage**.



DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVE

When you have a more diverse team, you also get a **diverse pool of ideas and opinions**. Having this set of new and fresh perspectives to help when brainstorming and selecting designs makes it a lot easier, especially as engineers. In robotics there are always going to be road-blocks, and **you can't always discover a solution by yourself**.

Different upbringings, backgrounds, areas of expertise, and creative imaginations make the problem-solving process so much easier, and **a lot more fun, too!**



Some people are better than others at something, and having **specific specialties gives a more well-rounded and successful** team. In terms of team chemistry, I love being able to hold engaging conversations with **people who have different ideas** because they challenge me and help me think about things from a different perspective, which **forces me to think outside of the box.**



CHANGING THE WORLD'S CURRENT NARRATIVE

Minority female scientists from **all over the world** have contributed to science as we know it today. Dr. Nadine Caron, of the Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, is the first female Native American general surgeon. She is one of my **biggest inspirations as an aspiring surgeon.**



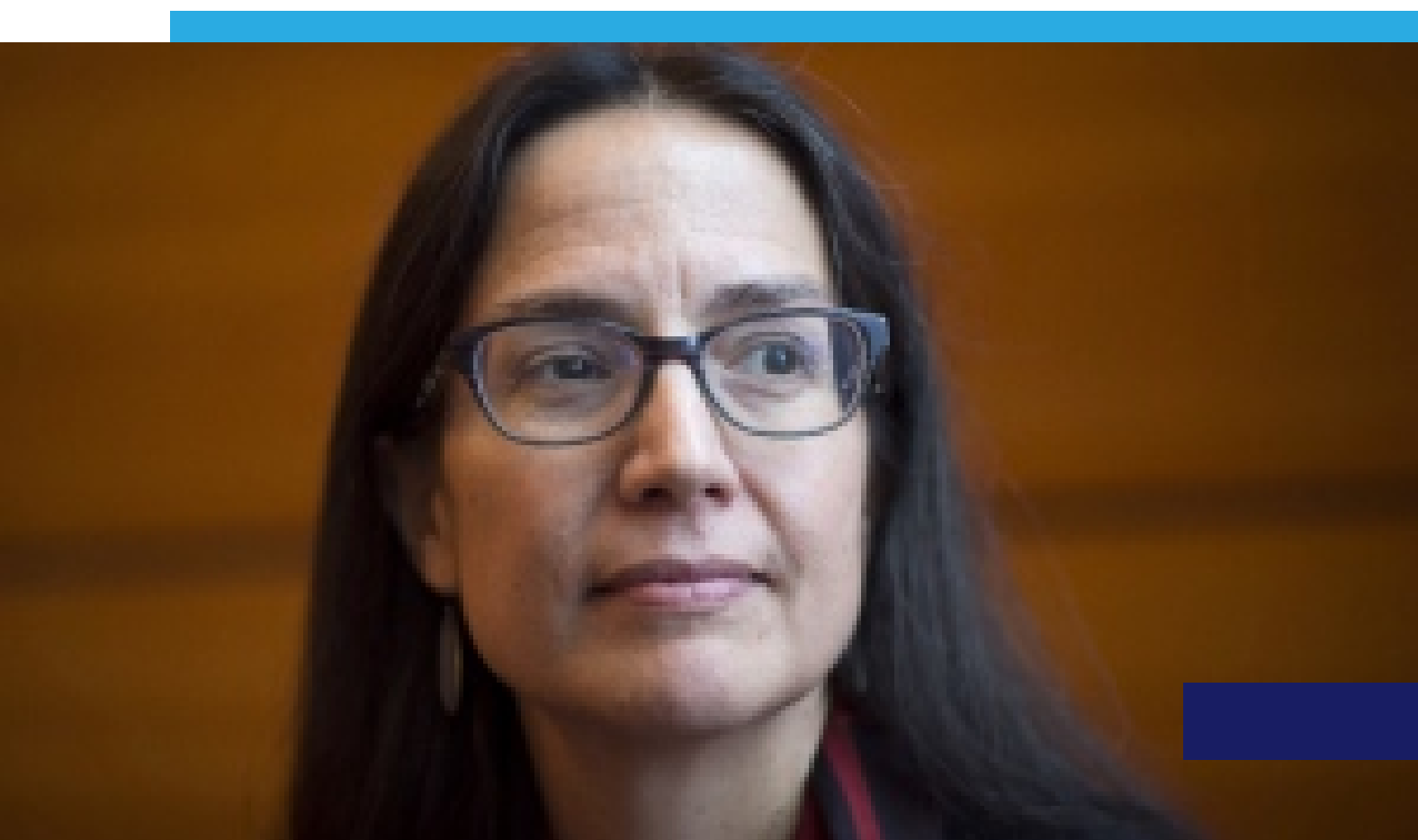
Growing up, Dr. Caron **noticed that many indigenous people were denied proper treatment** or didn't have access to it because of location. Throughout her entire medical career she has fought to see more representation and support to both indigenous and colored people. In her 2017 TED Talk, Caron speaks about the **overwhelming silence she feels as the first female indigenous general surgeon.** She talks to the audience about the feeling of being completely lost and having zero guidance, as she feels everyday pressure of being the first.



In an interview with CBC News, she stated, "Sometimes I'm so optimistic...And then on other days I experience things in the hallways or I hear things that are unintended to be heard and you just hang your head ... And so I think in the end it's just like anything else. **We're not there yet but we don't even have the right to stop trying to get there.**" She says that she has seen many doctors give less effort in a patient's treatment because of their ethnicity. Caron states that the **relationship between a doctor and patient is crucial** because the patient is the only one who is aware of what is physically wrong with their body, and some patients **aren't given enough care because of their race.**

INSPIRING THE WORLD, ONE DAY AT A TIME

As the first General Surgeon for the First Nations of Canada, **she feels an immense responsibility** to care for her people and to speak up for them when they are unable to do it themselves. When speaking to CTV News, Dr. Caron says, “It’s about choice, it’s about equity, **it’s about addressing the fact that it's time we're at the table.** The disparities are getting bigger...[but] more and more people in places of power and in positions where they can implement change are starting to actually own up to it.”



Dr. Nadine Caron strives to create a more inclusive, welcoming, and most of all, fair environment to her patients. As a Native American, Mexican, and Filipino girl, I am inspired by her actions and **her commitment to creating an equal world in medicine.** I aspire to become a surgeon like her, and her dedication to fair treatment **motivates me to pursue my dreams and do the same.**

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

Dr. Nadine Caron did what seemed impossible. She changed the course of history with her passion for saving lives. Her efforts **inspire girls like me to take their own chance to “Spin Up” the current narrative.** I see so much of myself in her, and I hope I can do things just as great as her in my future.



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GIRL POWERED RESOURCES

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