

Girl Power™ and VEX

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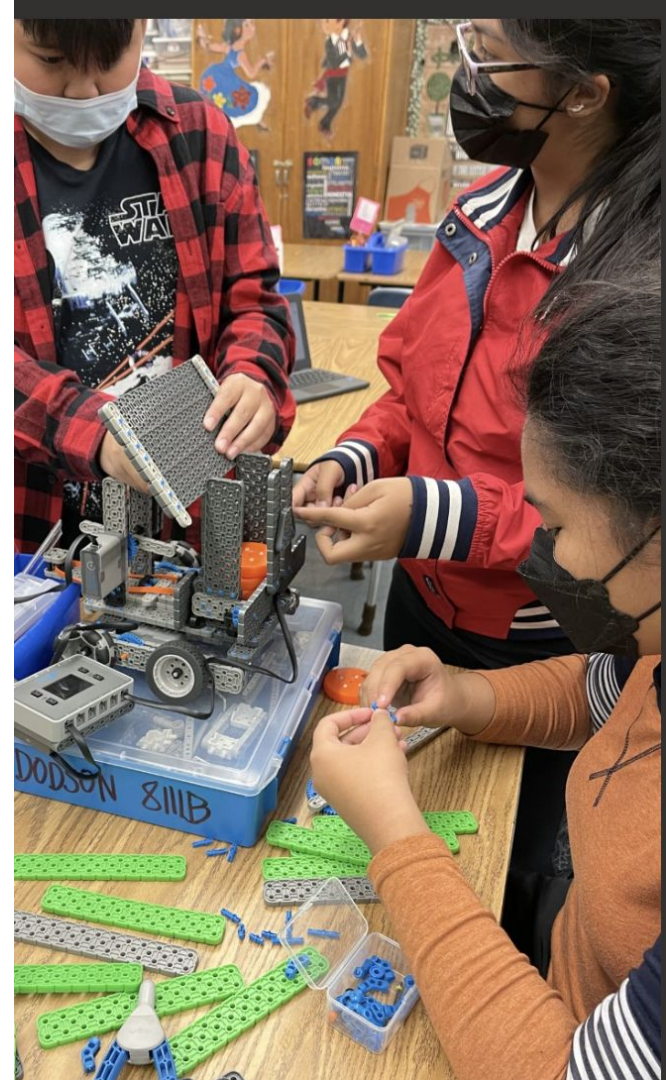
When you hear the phrase “Girl Powered,” what comes to mind? How is it reflected in your team’s approach to robotics?



When I hear the phrase “Girl Powered”, I think of girls supporting girls to achieve their goals. This is reflected in our team’s approach to robotics because our team is mainly female based. This is because it is widely known that females have been denied STEM jobs due to their genders. Statistics show that the women in STEM workplaces only make up around 24% of the workers. Knowing this, our advisor, Ms. Kika, had wanted to do something about this problem. Her solution was when forming our team, by recruiting mainly girls. From this, she hoped to give the girls in our team more experience with STEM so if we ever wanted to have a STEM based career in the future, we would have a concept of it in our experience.

How does your team take initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students?

Our team take initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students by demonstrating our diversity with our team members. Our team members all come from different cultures, which shows that your race does not define your capability. Not only do our team members all come from different cultures, but our members also come from immigrant backgrounds. Our goal as a team to show our initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students could be seen as completed since our team members come from diverse cultures, immigrant families, and are mainly female. This all shows how no matter who you are, you can still pursue your goals. This also shows how your race, your background, your identity, and more should not be the reason your capability is measured.



Do team members try various roles on the team (designing, building, driving, programming, strategy, awards, etc.), and what do they learn from this experience?

Our team members do try to contribute to the team in different ways, and from this, they learn their skills. From trying to build, some members realize they would be able to help the team more by working on programming, and vice versa. By trying different roles on the team, our members realize their strengths and weaknesses, and begin to contribute to the team in their best form.



How do you believe diversity of perspective changes your robot design, your team chemistry, and even your ability to succeed?



We believe that diversity of perspectives can be applied to different functions on a robot. For example, if one person messes up and they don't see it, the other person can help correct them while showing them what they did wrong. Different perspectives both see the robot in a different way, so they can both make their own improvements in a different way. Making improvements in different ways makes the robot better in every way. It all depends on the way you view your robot. The way your robot turns out all depends on how you decided to take the opportunity, and the way you want your robot to end up functioning, rather its good or bad.

Our diversity of perspective changes our team chemistry because of the way we view the world. Our diversity of perspective also changed our team chemistry because of the way we get along. Since we all have different opinions, we all have to think about each other's ideas, which influences our team chemistry. This also affects our ability to succeed because based on how well we communicate with one another, we are able to communicate our ideas to better the robot.

Who is your STEM role model, and why? Does this person inspire you to have a more inclusive team/program? How?

My STEM role model would be Annie Easley. Annie Easley was one of the first four Black women to work at NASA as a human computer. Annie inspires us to have a more inclusive team/program because she had helped other African Americans who had wanted to be part of STEM by becoming an equal employment opportunity counselor at NASA. From there, she managed all of the discrimination issues. This included gender, race, and age.

