

# A BRIGHT FUTURE STEMMING FROM Y PROGRAMS

For years, the Ivy Tech Campus in Evansville has hosted a summer camp geared toward keeping youth active and intellectually engaged during summer.

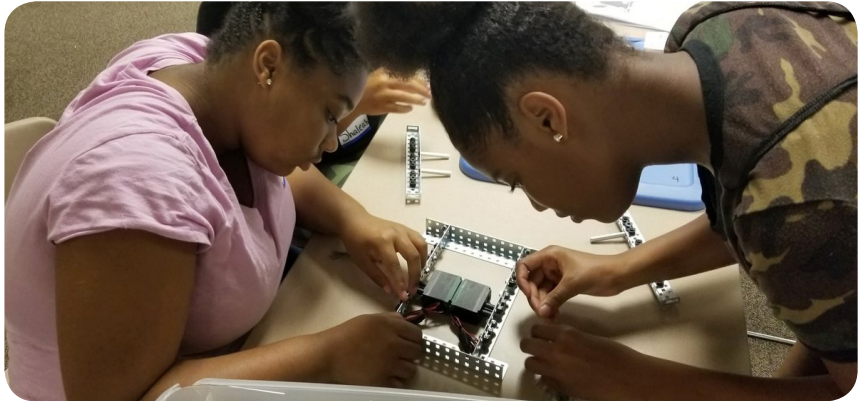
Responding to a community and larger societal need to bring more young women and minorities to the field of STEM, Ivy Tech approached the YMCA to partner.

Through funds raised from YMCA Annual Campaign, we were able to provide two weeks of free summer STEM learning to girls in our Youth Outreach Programs.

The primary goal was to introduce VEX Robotics to students, teaching them how to design, assemble, and then operate a VEX Robot using a mentoring model and structure.

Not only were the students able to learn “hands on” in the robotics laboratory where they built, tested, and analyzed data on VEX Robots, they also visited two

**BELOW:** Two DIAMONDS participants assemble their own VEX robot.



local companies who specialize in robotic operations, SRG Global and Flanders Electric.

The students toured and learned the practical use of robotics in our community as well as various careers to explore in the field.

The week ended with a VEX competition, judged by volunteer engineers from Vectren Corporation who spoke with youth about careers in STEM.

Thanks to funds raised in the YMCA Annual Campaign, over 25 YMCA youth outreach participants avoided sitting around last summer and instead expanded their horizons and equipped themselves with knowledge and experience which not only helps them through high school but also exposes them to one of the largest growing, and well paying, employment fields of the 21st Century.