

What drives me? The answer, innovation that will change the world for the better. When I was young I always dreamed of becoming an inventor and I fulfilled that dream. Using many of the toys I had, I would create many small things that eventually got taken down. The first invention I remember was a small bell connected to my door latch, that way if anyone opened my door I would hear them. As I grew my dream of becoming an inventor morphed into a dream of becoming an engineer and from there a robotics engineer. This dream is becoming more of a reality as I get further in schooling. It started back in 8th grade. I took a CAD class and fell in love immediately. But I hit a stall in high school, the year I entered the engineering teacher for the school and the engineering classes left with her. It wasn't until last year that I learned about the ALC, a separate school that teaches advanced classes, in it I found the Jackpot. Immediately I signed up for the one engineering class I could take and now next year I can enter the Robotics class. As a Junior my thoughts have been turned to colleges and degrees. I found that in order to become a Robotics engineer I will first have to get a bachelors in computer engineering then go back and get a Masters in Robotics. When people hear this they cringe "Six years of schooling!". Yes! Schooling does not daunt me. I LOVE learning. Whether it be how a piece of equipment runs or learning how to take the second derivative of a polynomial function it is all AWESOME!

What would I do once I have my degree as a Robotics Engineer? I will continue to create! Currently I am an employee of a hardware store. We sell all sorts of concrete, mortar mix, and lumber. Over the summer we sell a LOT of these over the summer. If you don't lift right your back can start to really hurt by the end of the day. I know some of my coworkers that have bad backs or chronic pain that I am sure all of this lifting has contributed. So I have always thought of creating a smart exoskeleton. This would be slim enough to store away easily and easy enough to put on that we could slip it on before the customer pulls around the store. It could recognize the weight of loads and help lift, saving so many their backs. This product would be able to do more than just help those in hardware though. It could help in construction and even in emergency response. In construction hauling lumber would suddenly be much easier, and in emergency response lifting a car or piece of rubble would be much easier. My friends (who are going into business) and I could create and market a product that could help so many.