

Reflection Paper 1

Introduction

Starting on the 12th of June, I was able to obtain my first 50 hours of professional experience at Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab in Newport News. When I first got accepted to the internship, I was made aware that I will be covering many different aspects of STEM, including Cybersecurity. During my first few days there, I was able to learn about some of the equipment there, as well as being taught how to use 3d printers, laser cutters, and garment printers.

Tasks

Another primary focus at Brooks Crossing is the assembling and use of robotic machines. At Brooks Crossing, there are numerous events that regularly take place, including field trips, summer camps, and an open makerspace, which is where anyone in the community can come to work on their own projects. The first camp that took place while I was there was focused on the 3d printers, laser cutters, and garment printers. I, along with other interns, helped the students in creating designs for their own personalized T-shirts using Canva. Later in the day, we switched to working on designing plant pots on Tinkercad, which would eventually be printed using the 3d printer. The next camp spanned the full week and primarily focused on robotic design. The students were able to build robots from scratch and use them for many activities. While the internship has not had any kind of Cybersecurity involved, there is a camp coming up soon that covers Cybercrime.

Takeaways

Through the first 50 hours of this internship, I feel that I was able to better my ability of educating students on the different aspects of STEM. I was also able to learn the importance of collaborating with other interns and being able to exchange ideas with them.

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VEX IQ V-Rex with fully functional arms, legs, and mouth