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Reflective Journal 1

I have been interning at ODU Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab. I work as a Program Assistant in the Innovation Lab. The Innovation Lab offers a wide variety of educational programs, workshops, and hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages. The programs are directed at improving digital literacy and innovation skills. We collaborate with educational institutions to provide STEM-related training and opportunities. These partnerships tend to be with local schools, universities, community colleges, and other programs.

I help with setting up programs and tasks within the Makerspace. For example, recently we had a night designated to and called Family Makerspace. We set up STEM Challenges for families and students to take part in each week. It is essentially a workshop with multiple stations for people to work at. These challenges are essentially created for the individual to work through the Engineering Design Process. This would include engineering mini boats, coding and operating robots, creating with LEGOs, creating a catapult out of popsicle sticks, and more.

The first day in particular was utilized as a tutorial day to learn the machines. This would include a laser printer, 3D printer, and more. We have created lanterns by laser printing with wood, created name tags through 3D printing and tinkerCad. The early days of the internship were slower. It took more time to reach 50 hours. As time has gone on, I have worked more days and attended more of the workshops. A few of them consisted of school field trips or Saturday workshops.