

Science, Technology, and Society – Service-Learning Practicum Nick Fabula

College Park Scholars – Science & Global Change Program Bioengineering

nfabula@umd.edu

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Introduction

In my practicum, I spent my time trying to help students further their STEM education, either through the robotics program at Hollywood Elementary school or CPA virtual tutoring

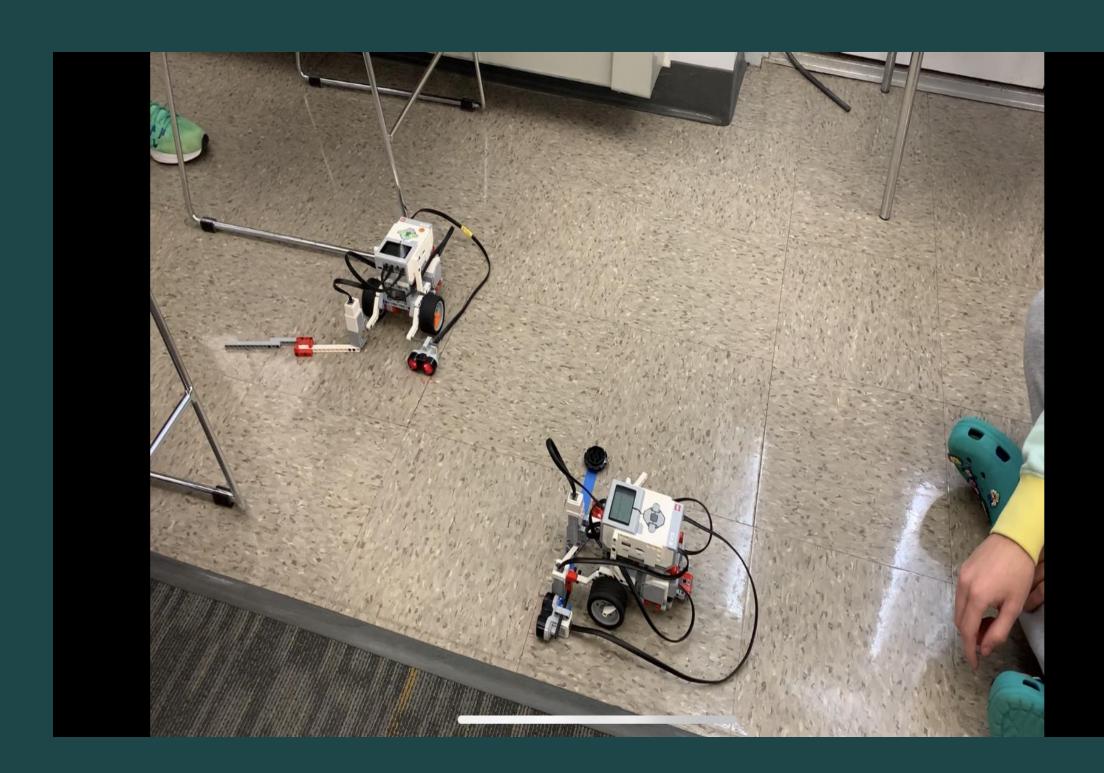


Photo of two LEGO robots during training day

Site Information:

Hollywood Elementary School/CPA Virtual Tutoring 9811 49th Ave, College Park, MD 20740

Dr. Tim Reedy

Hollywood ES believes in S.T.A.R.S (students with a variety of education options, thinking creatively and critically, attitudes that are positive, reliability and responsibility, and self-direction)

<u>Issues Confronting Site:</u>

The school is located in a lower-income area, so there are less resources and technology available to students. Also, there is a lack of hands-on STEM opportunities in elementary schools

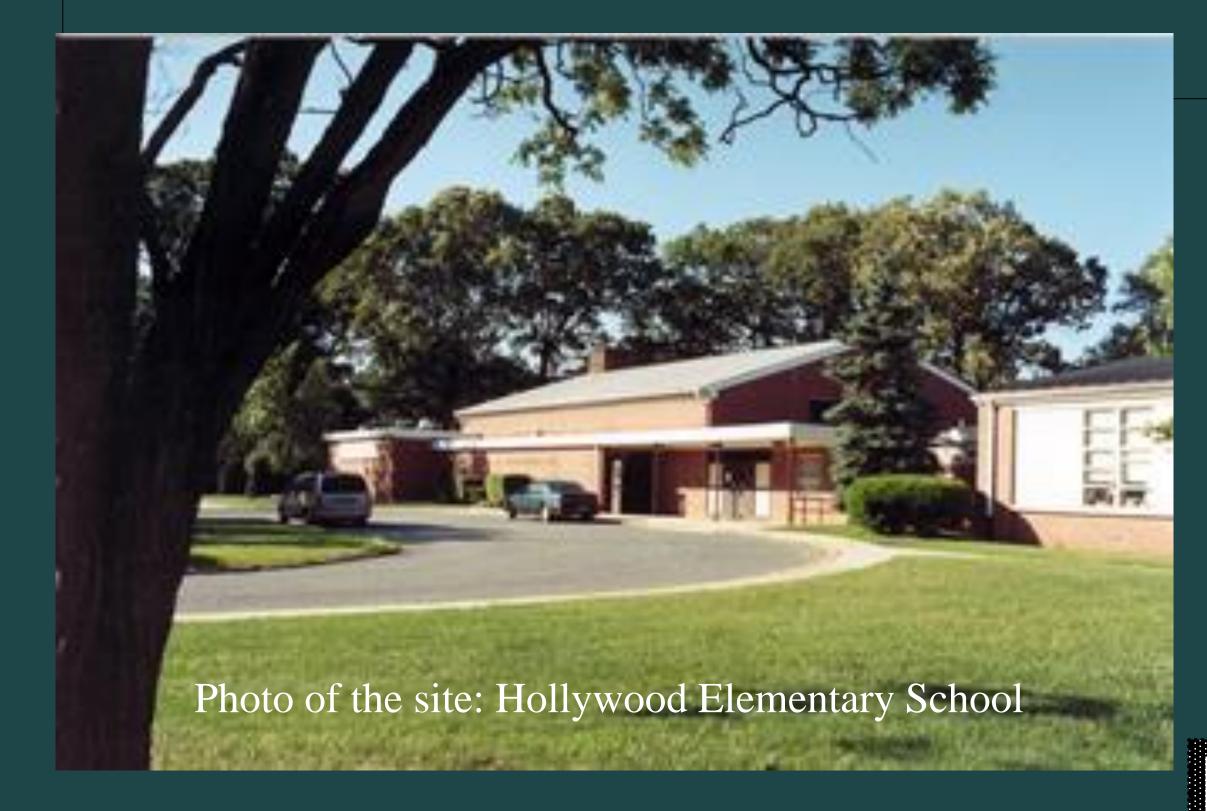
Activities:

I originally started at Hollywood Elementary School, but due to COVID-19 had to switch to CPA virtual tutoring.

- Hollywood ES:
 - LEGO Robotics Club Tutor
 - Taught students the different sensors of the robot
 - Supervised build day and taught the LEGO Robots coding program
- CPA Virtual Tutoring:
 - Math Tutoring
 - Study Habits Tutoring

Impact:

Gave students an opportunity to explore the STEM field, which will ultimately benefit their decision to pursue it or not in the future. During the robotics club lessons, the students learned how to engage in creative and critical thinking that would allow them to create the best design for their robot. Each student tackled the difficulties of designing and programming a robot head-on and were fully involved. This program made me more interested in STEM and has given me a desire to help future students achieve their goals. The virtual tutoring helped students better understand their coursework and helped to prepare them for better studying and learning methods. The online learning environment is not as effective of a learning place than in-person, but I feel as if the students still received the help they need, and I enjoyed my time helping them. Tutoring students has made me consider the possibility of becoming a teacher myself one day as I would like to have a positive impact on the learning experience that students receive, since I now know how much that affects their decisions in the future.





Acknowledgments:

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