



Teaching Robotics to Elementary Schoolers

Adam Rozen

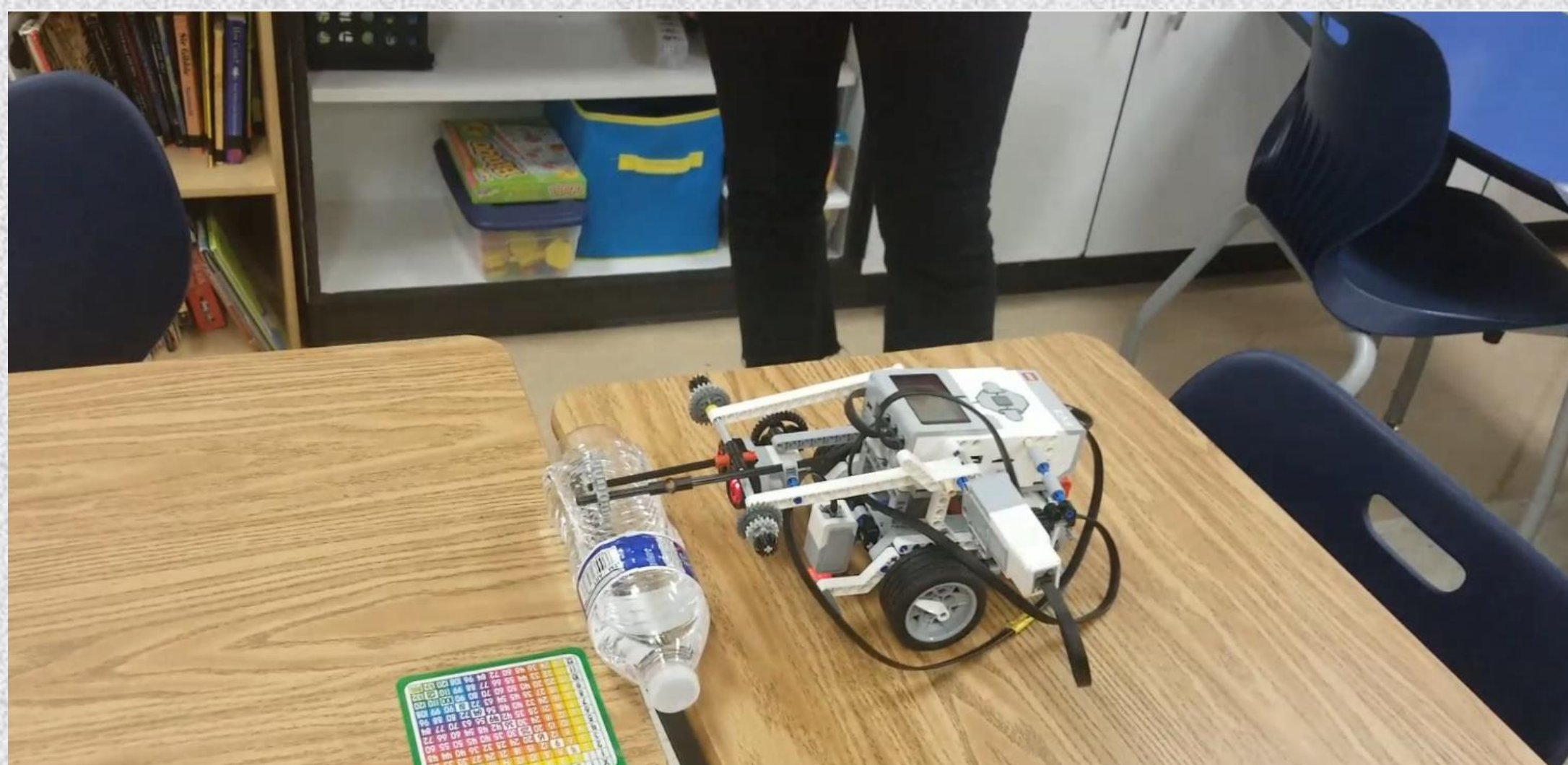
College Park Scholars – Science & Global Change Program
Computer Science
arozen@umd.edu

College Park Scholars Academic Showcase, May 1, 2020



Background

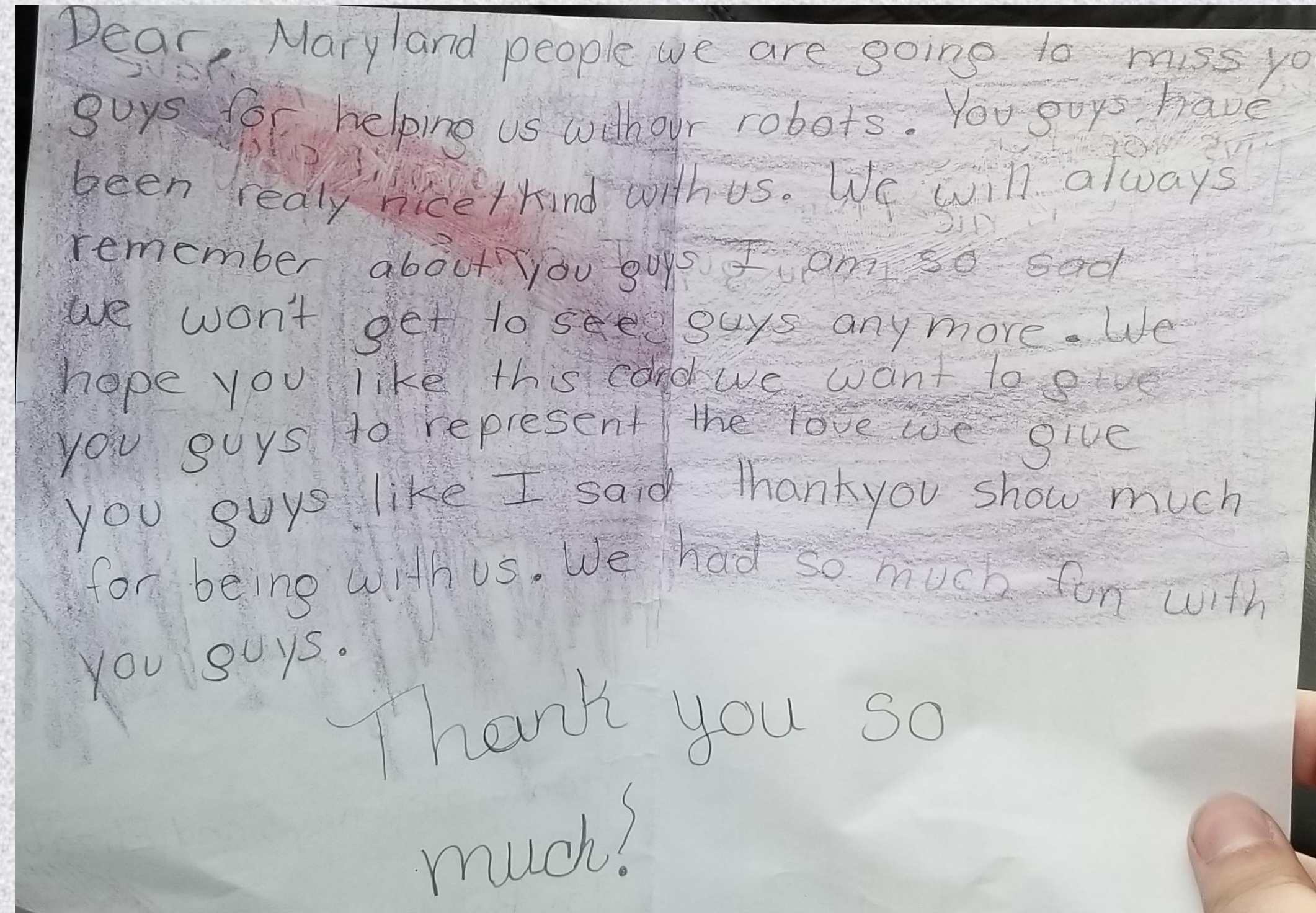
In the Fall semester of 2019, I participated in a service learning class. Once a week I, and two of my classmates, visited Prince George's County Public Schools' Hollywood Elementary School, and we helped run a robotics club for an hour. My four 5th grade students, Michael, Leanna, Elizabeth, and Stephany, built a robot with my help, which was designed to hammer the other group's robot in a battle.



Demonstrating to Alyssa the robot's ability to move its hammer up and down

Impact on Hollywood Elementary School:

- Students improved critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Students are more excited about STEM
- Students learned to work as a team
- Students realized learning can be enjoyable
- Students can build a robot that follows simple commands



The inside of the farewell card that Elizabeth and Stephany gave me. Not pictured: A fun-sized Snickers bar and a few starburst

Impact on Me:

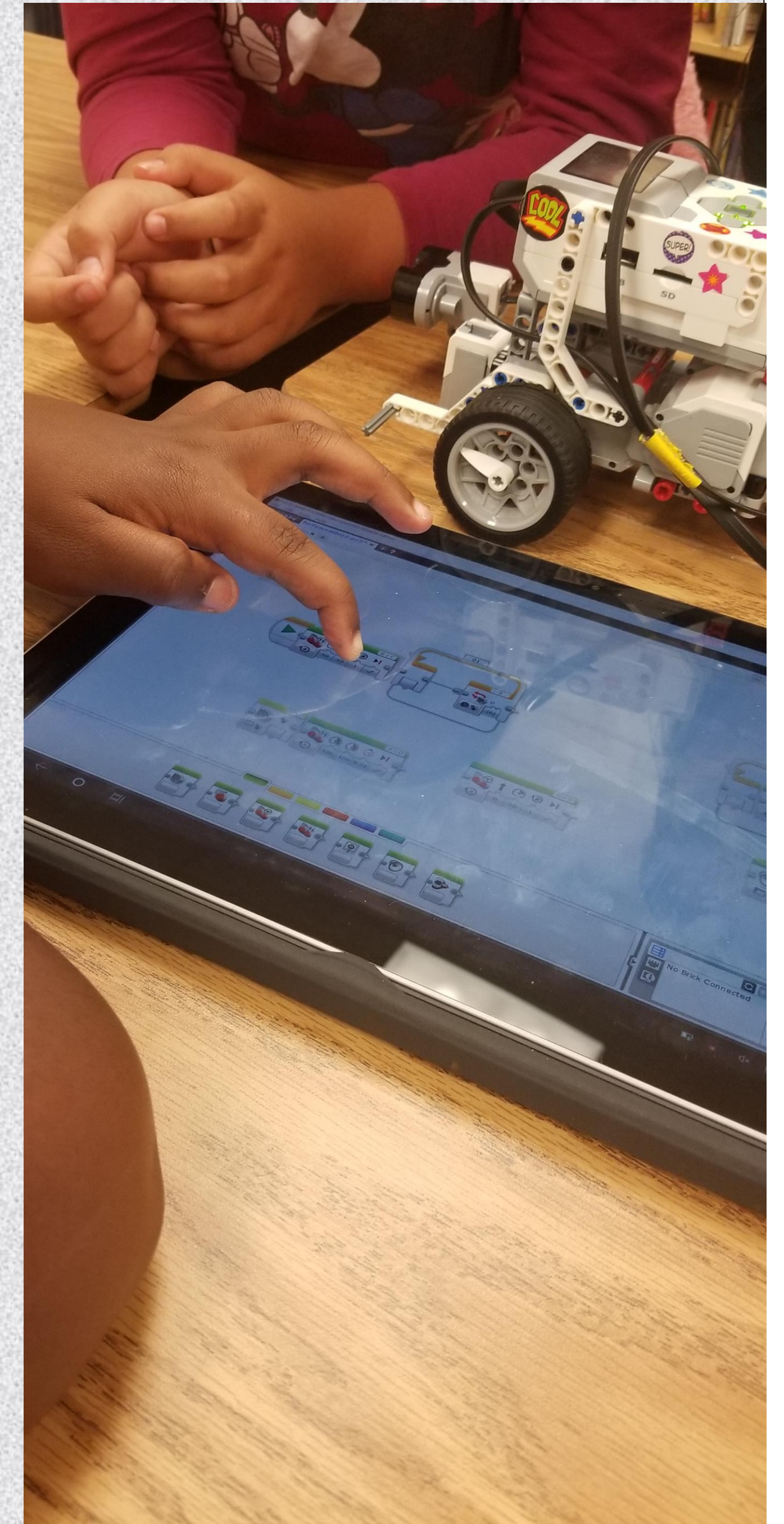
- I learned about the students and their different backgrounds
- I am no longer considering a career that may involve management of children
- I am a better teacher
- I understand how to use a LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3
- I have realized that teachers must learn along with their students

Elementary Problems:

- I did not know how to make the battle robot initially
- Students forgetting what we did the week before without a reminder
- Keeping students on task and not distracted
- Keeping students engaged while others were programming on my laptop
- Wanting to change robot to not have the hammer the week before the battle with the other groups

Acknowledgments:

Thank you to Mr. Reedy and Alyssa for providing me with the guidance and resources needed to make this a success. Special thanks to Drs. Holtz & Merck as well, for their teachings over the last two years in the College Park Scholars Program Science and Global Change.



Michael (left) reminding his teammate, Leanna, how to make the robot turn using the color sensor so the robot would not go out of bounds

