



# Practicum Title

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Journalism

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## Introduction

In the online environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we looked for ways to continue our service and found it at the College Park Academy by teaching students robotics



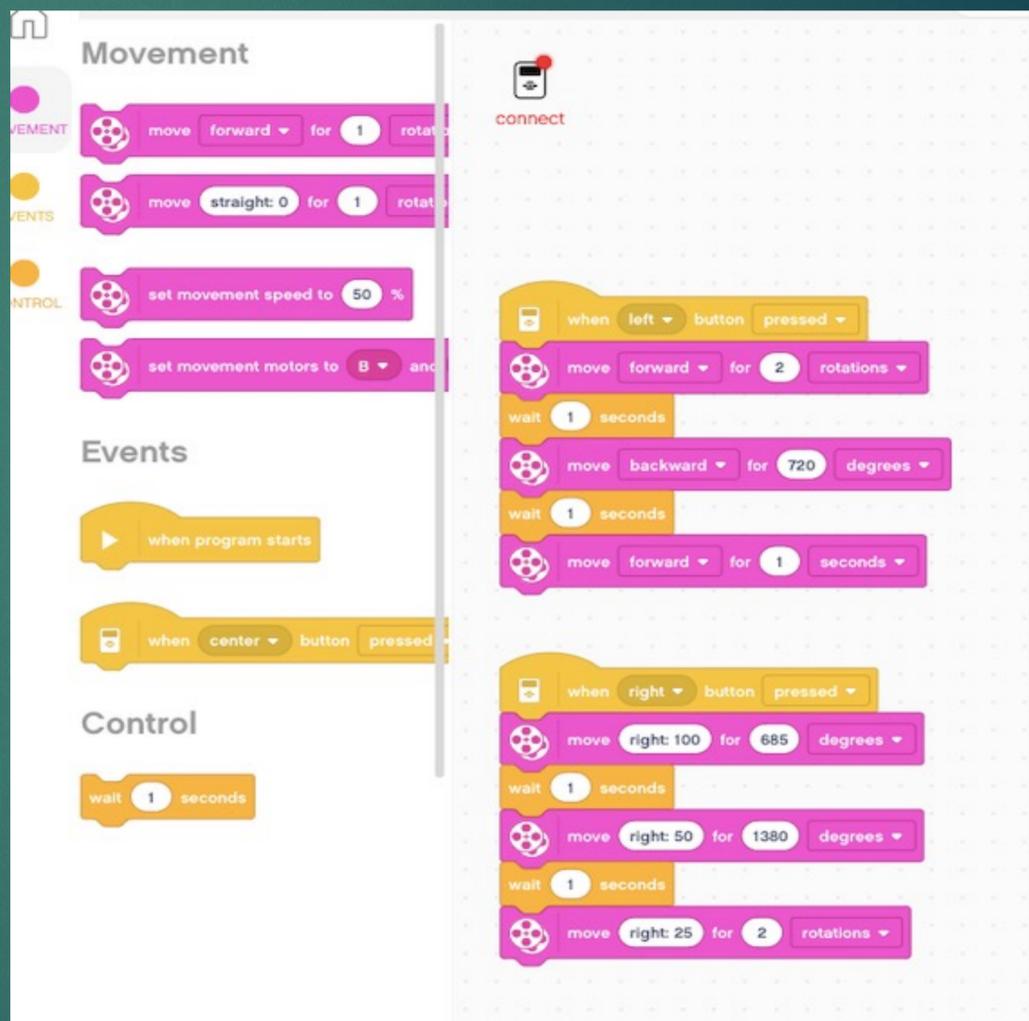
Our robot that we built with the students that they used for the Grand Challenge

## Activities:

We formed teams of college students, and each were assigned a student or a few to work with. We spent an hour a week for ten weeks to teach them how to build VEX robotics and then code them to complete tasks. At the end of the program, they completed a Grand Challenge, which for us was having the robot complete an obstacle course. We got to talk to the students and interact with them even over Zoom.

## Impact:

We were able to further the students' understanding of robotics and give them a great introduction into STEM, where there's a lot of room for future job growth and a need for more diverse representation. I learned a lot about my enjoyment for teaching and was able to feel a part of something bigger



An example of the code that the students worked on during class time.

## Site Information:

College Park Academy

5751 Rivertech Ct, Riverdale, MD

Tim Reedy

Teaching students about robotics and problem solving

To further STEM education and give students an opportunity to do something that they enjoy

## Issues Confronting Site:

We arrived at the site to give students a STEM experience that will hopefully encourage them to continue a STEM path later in life.

We also wanted to expand their education beyond the classroom and give students something to look forward to during online schooling.

Future Work: This project will allow these students in the future to grow up with experience in STEM outside of a classroom and hopefully increase educational opportunities and interest in STEM. It also boosts the reputation of the program at CPA with another successful robotics class

## Acknowledgments:

I'd like to take time to thank UMD Scholars, Science and Global Change, Professors Holtz, Merck, Reedy, the administration at CPA and our TA Mika Elby for all their support and work to make this program possible during the pandemic

