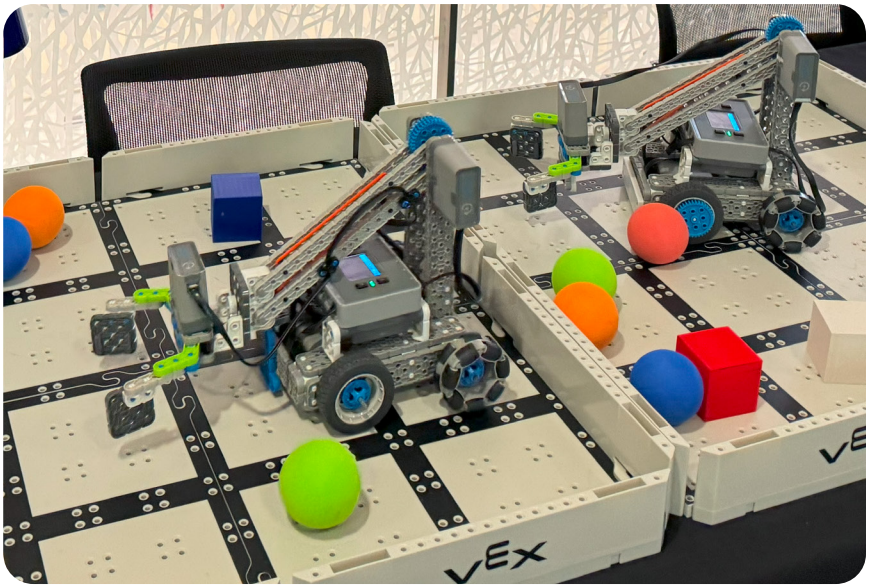
Saint Philip's Episcopal Church and School

Saint Philip's Episcopal Church and School is a forward-thinking educational institution that emphasizes computer science and technology education. With Rich Schiccatano, the Teacher & Curriculum Coordinator for Computer Science, the school is committed to early STEM education and fostering creativity through robotics.





The Challenge

As a dedicated educator, Rich Schiccatano was looking to grow professionally and stay current with the latest trends in STEM education. He sought opportunities to connect with like-minded educators, share experiences, and learn new approaches to teaching robotics and digital technologies.

The Solution

The VEX Robotics Educators Conference is a global event that brings together educators passionate about STEM and robotics. It focuses on enhancing teaching practices and integrating VEX Robotics into the classroom, equipping educators with the knowledge and skills to inspire the next generation.

Educational Philosophy and Approach

In the classroom, Rich adopts Resnick's 4 Ps of Creative Learning to create an engaging classroom environment. Hands-on, project-based learning, with a strong emphasis on collaboration, is facilitated using VEX Robotics as a core element of the curriculum.

The Four P's of Creative Learning

- **P**rojects
- **P**assion
- **P**eers
- **P**lay

"I'm honored to have presented at the 2024 VEX Educators Conference and witnessed the incredible VEX Worlds competitions! The energy, innovation, and collaboration within this community were truly inspiring and reignited my passion for teaching and learning."

— Rich Schiccatano, Teacher & Curriculum Coordinator for Computer Science

Building Professional Relationships



One of the key highlights for Rich was forming meaningful connections with other educators. As he reflected, "Attending the 2024 VEX Educators Conference was incredible from the start. The first day was filled with enlightening sessions that sparked new ideas.

But what really made a difference was my time at Terry Black's Barbecue with Darren Fellowes. Sharing the best brisket I've ever tasted and having deep conversations about our educational journeys helped us build a strong foundation for our collaboration."

Another standout connection was with Dana Townson, who was also coaching a team at the conference. Rich shared, "Dana's insights into her VEX journey were incredibly valuable. We had some great, honest conversations about problem-solving and what's working (and not working) in our approaches. The transparency and depth of our discussions were refreshing."

Rich also highlighted his interactions with VEX team members, including one-on-one sessions with Jimmy Lin from VEX, stating, "We dove into the VEX IQ 'Up and Over' challenge and had a hands-on session where we could really dig into the game's mechanics. Being able to brainstorm and enhance the game with Jimmy's insights was invaluable."

Presentations and Hands-On Workshops

Rich engaged in presentations that provided insights into the latest VEX Robotics tools and methodologies. These hands-on workshops allowed him to explore the VEX Continuum and develop practical skills that he could bring back to his classroom.

Rich took an active role as a presenter, showcasing his successful teaching strategies and VEX Robotics projects. This opportunity allowed him to engage with fellow educators, discuss best practices, and gather valuable feedback, which broadened his perspective on STEM education.

PD+ Community Member

Attending VEX Worlds was a highlight of Rich's conference experience. "Watching student teams compete at the highest level showcased the energy and innovation within the VEX Community. The Game Reveal and Pit Walk provided further inspiration for future classroom projects."

Rich is now an active member of the VEX PD+ Community, where he continues to engage with fellow educators. "Being part of the PD+ Community has strengthened these connections, allowing me to continue learning, exchanging ideas, and supporting my fellow educators. The resources and community have become invaluable as I apply what I've learned to my classroom."

The Outcome

Rich gained enhanced knowledge of VEX Robotics tools and increased confidence in implementing innovative teaching strategies. His participation in the conference left him feeling motivated to introduce new ideas and techniques in his classroom.
He has shared his new insights with colleagues at Saint Philip's Episcopal Church and School, enriching their teaching practices. His collaboration with Darren continues to thrive, and his ongoing involvement with the PD+ Community provides him with a consistent source of support and professional growth.
Attending the Conference was a pivotal experience for Rich Schiccatano. Through active participation in hands-on workshops, attending presentations, networking events, and the Partner Hall Poster Session, Rich not only enhanced his professional skills but also expanded his network and found inspiration. His ongoing involvement in the PD+ Community continues to support his growth and has enriched his classroom teaching.



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