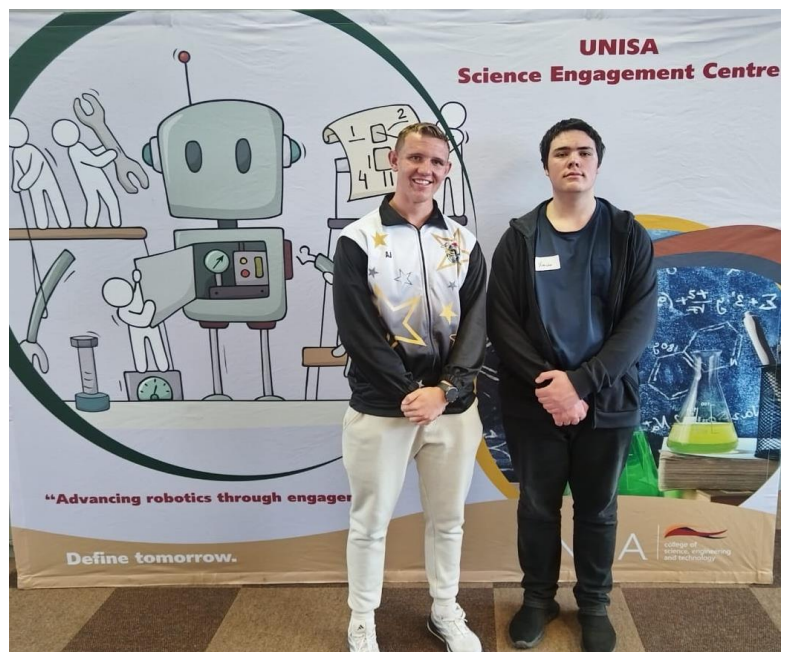


July Robotics Holiday Program – Future Roboteers

In the first week of the July school holiday, the UNISA Science Engagement Centre and the UNISA Science Campus ran a robotics training workshop. The week started with a workshop for high school students, teaching them basic robotics in terms of programming and building a robot.

In this workshop there was two students showing so much interest in robotics that they just stood out. The two students are AJ de Beer and Xander Pretorius, both of whom go to Hoërskool Florida. AJ and Xander immediately grasped the concepts that was being showed, so much that they started building the robot that was used in the 2024 Lego Robotics championship.

The head of the Science Engagement Centre, Prof. Gouws, started helping and mentoring the two boys. She invited AJ and Xander to come back the rest of the week to help and even teach the other groups that was scheduled for the week.



AJ and Xander was thrilled to be invited back and attend the rest of the week, not only just attending but teaching and being mentor for the Primary school children that attend over the next few days. The two boys from Hoërskool Florida took to this like it was a calling. They each got a group of children each day to take through the robotics program.

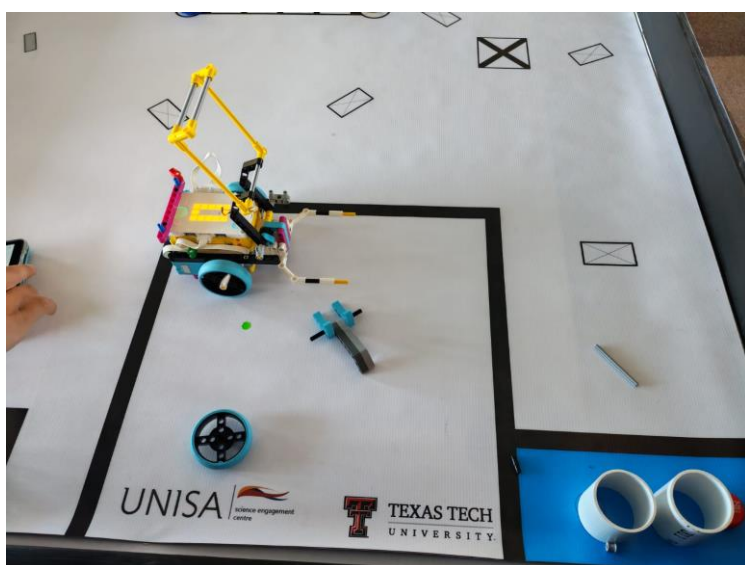
From showing the primary school children how to build their first basic robot to programming it with basic instructions. At the end of the session their groups were able to do this and even had the robots do some activities.

Working together with the staff of the UNISA Science Engagement Centre, AJ de Beer and Xander Pretorius was able to show the primary school children the importance of robotic and how it can be used in real life. The primary school children enjoyed the sessions as it was easier to understand the high school boys that understood them and spoke “their language”



AJ de Beer & Xander Pretorius with their groups of primary school children.

AJ and Xander went on to arrange with the staff to return the last week of the holiday to continue to work on their robot and try to complete the challenge that was used in the competition. Not only did the two boys return, but they invited 3 more of their friends from Hoërskool Florida. Together this group of high school children spent the week finishing building and coding the robot that they were building.



The attempted the “Farming” challenge that was put together by UNISA and Texas Tech University. This challenge involves the robot to perform tasks that would take place on a farm. It was a real joy watching these kids work together and brainstorming to solve problems. At the end of the week the staff from the Science Engagement Centre scored them and watch the robot perform the challenge. Scoring an amazing 79%.

We look forward to seeing these amazing children at future workshop.