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Robotics camp sharpens STEM skills of 21 young people



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A four-week pilot robotics camp targeting 21 young students has concluded with campers describing it as fun and a great learning experience.

The commendation came during a ceremony held as part of the final showcase of the Caribbean Science Foundation's Junior Robotics Camp held on Friday at the 3Ws Pavilion, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus.

Students between the ages of nine and 12 took part in the camp that

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focused on teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) concepts and skills.

Coach Camille Pounder said many students improvised and built their own robots.

“Most of them were either exposed to using robots before whether it be Lego while the other were just good science students, interested in everything. They were very hands on. They understood the programming,” she said.

“The kids were usually supposed to build what is called a clawbot. There were limited pieces made to do these clawbots but we showed them some other stuff online for them to come up with whatever robot they wanted to build.”

Her colleague coach Roydon Richards said the camp focused on development rather than competition.

“Each student was allowed to programme their robot to do a particular thing. We gave them a task we wanted the robot to finish and what they were required to do was to code the robot to complete that task,” he said.

“However, for the students it is natural for them to compete in terms of designs, who feels that theirs looks better. But, at the end of the day it is the creativity of the particular group and you can’t really measure that.”

Prizes were handed out to campers, including for the Most Improved.



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