Partnerships for Success

Government partnerships with positive outcomes for Indigenous people, businesses and communities

RoboX Program
Innovation Saskatchewan

In 2018, Innovation Saskatchewan began a pilot project aimed at introducing First Nations students to robotics, computer coding and digital literacy. With the participation of 85 students from Cowessess and Kahkewistahaw First Nation schools, the program fostered creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills, and sparked students' interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields as viable career choices. Prior to the start of the program, 52 per cent of students were interested in technology and a STEM career. Post-implementation, that figure increased to 70 per cent of students.

The motivation behind the creation of RoboX was a need to address the underrepresentation of Indigenous people in the technology sector, as well as a shortage of skilled tech labour in the province. The program was delivered over five months to students in grades 5 to 9, and featured robotics kits that allowed students to learn about computer programming and technology through hands-on experience. The program finished with a series of games and competitions, and participants in both schools received certificates.

In 2019, Innovation Saskatchewan began working with SaskCode and the Saskatchewan Science Centre on a second pilot of the program for northern communities, of which 87 per cent of the population is Indigenous. This version began in March with a three-day training event for teachers. In total:

- 28 teachers from 10 northern communities received training.
- 65 per cent of teachers had never engaged their students in coding and robotics education.
- 100 per cent of participating teachers indicated they were equipped to engage with students in robotics following the training session.

Outcomes

RoboX Program:

1. Exposes Indigenous students to learning and career opportunities in STEM fields.
2. Equips teachers to engage students in coding and robotics education.
3. Enhances creative problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Through these training sessions, Innovation Saskatchewan is helping to incorporate coding and robotics into the education curriculum. It is currently working on a RoboX northern tour, and has begun discussions to implement the program on a wider basis.

For more information, visit www.innovationsask.ca.

saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan

Partnerships for Success
RoboX Program

In 2018
2 FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS
were involved with the pilot project

85 STUDENTS
from
GRADES 5 TO 9
participated

EXPOSED STUDENTS TO CONCEPTS IN STEM

Science

Technology

Engineering

Math

70% **OF STUDENTS**
were interested in pursuing a **STEM CAREER** after completing the program
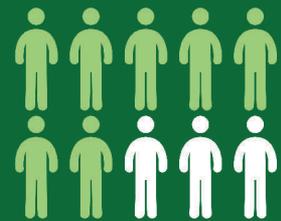
28 TEACHERS
from
10 NORTHERN COMMUNITIES
received RoboX training in 2019
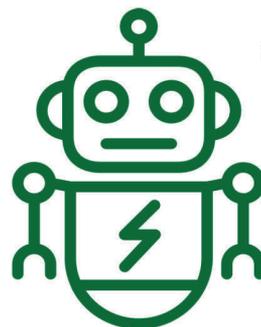
100%
indicated they were equipped to **ENGAGE STUDENTS IN ROBOTICS** following their training

Source: *Innovation Saskatchewan*
Image Source: www.flaticon.com

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