



Philadelphia Robotics Coalition 2026 Annual Impact Report

One transformative vision:

Robotics in Every Neighborhood: From Cradle to Career





Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year, Philadelphia Robotics Coalition proved what sustained investment can do. In three years, we grew from 78 to 95 FLL teams, from supporting 45 to 65 schools, and supported 806 robotics students, nearly double where we started. We trained 86 coaches, delivered 35 community workshops, and opened 31 new workforce development opportunities for our students.

But numbers only tell part of the story. Our real measure is students like Khristian, who became a member of our Executive Student Action Committee as a tenth grader with no STEM leadership experience and graduated with a full scholarship to Temple University to study engineering. His story is not the exception. It's our model.

In a year marked by funding contractions across the nonprofit sector, our partners' steadfast commitment allowed PRC to grow rather than contract. Thank you for building this ecosystem with us. "Robotics in Every Neighborhood: From Cradle to Career" remains our North Star, and together, we are making it real. Let's go!

With gratitude, Dr. Dia L. Jones, Executive Director, Philadelphia Robotics Coalition

Coach Walker, Tilden

"Personally, I love to see students discover things about themselves that they didn't know, to realize that they are able to do something that they never thought they could. And to see them succeed and to see the coding work or to see the project work and to be amazed at what they are able to do. So that's one of my favorite parts to see those light bulbs go on and have them recognize that they could do something that they possibly could have never dreamed of."



Three Years of Growth: Impact at a Glance

We had a vision: create the next STEM leaders in Philadelphia. Three years later, that vision is a measurable reality.

95

FLL Robotics Teams

Up from 78

65

Schools Served

Up from 45

806

Students (Spring)

Up from 466

7K

Community Outreach Reach

Up from 1,000

86

Coaches Trained

Up from 49

31

Workforce Dev. Opportunities

Up from 10

These numbers represent schools where no robotics team existed before, coaches who had never written a line of code, and students who never imagined themselves as STEM leaders. That is what sustained investment makes possible.



Coach Gold, Masterman

"We have incredible students who are working really hard on the innovation project, coding, designing and overall teamwork and following all the core values of the *FIRST*LEGO LEAGUE. What makes robotics so special is to have all the students working together...(making) their own decisions..."

A Note of Gratitude and Purpose

"In a period marked by significant funding contractions across the nonprofit sector, our partners sustained commitments have been a stabilizing force that allowed us to grow rather than contract."

PRC is deeply grateful to our funders for years of transformative partnership. Their investments have helped us build an **ecosystem** — not just programs. We continue to pursue our North Star: to increase the number of diverse STEM leaders in our city and region. Our rallying cry remains **"Robotics in Every Neighborhood: From Cradle to Career."** We are building the infrastructure to deliver on it.



Dr. Ronald Kander, Jefferson University

"The students today are more worried about how they are going to save the planet, how they are going to save humanity. They want to work so they can live. They don't want to live so they can work."



2026 Funders

\$160K

Total Funding Raised

Across all funders in 2026

We are deeply grateful to all of our 2026 funders for their generous support with special thanks to:

The Horner Foundation

Children Can Shape the Future

The Susquehanna Foundation



Coach G, Harding

“I think it’s important that students have the opportunity where they’re the directors of their learning. One of the beautiful things about the robotics experience is that they are the masters.”

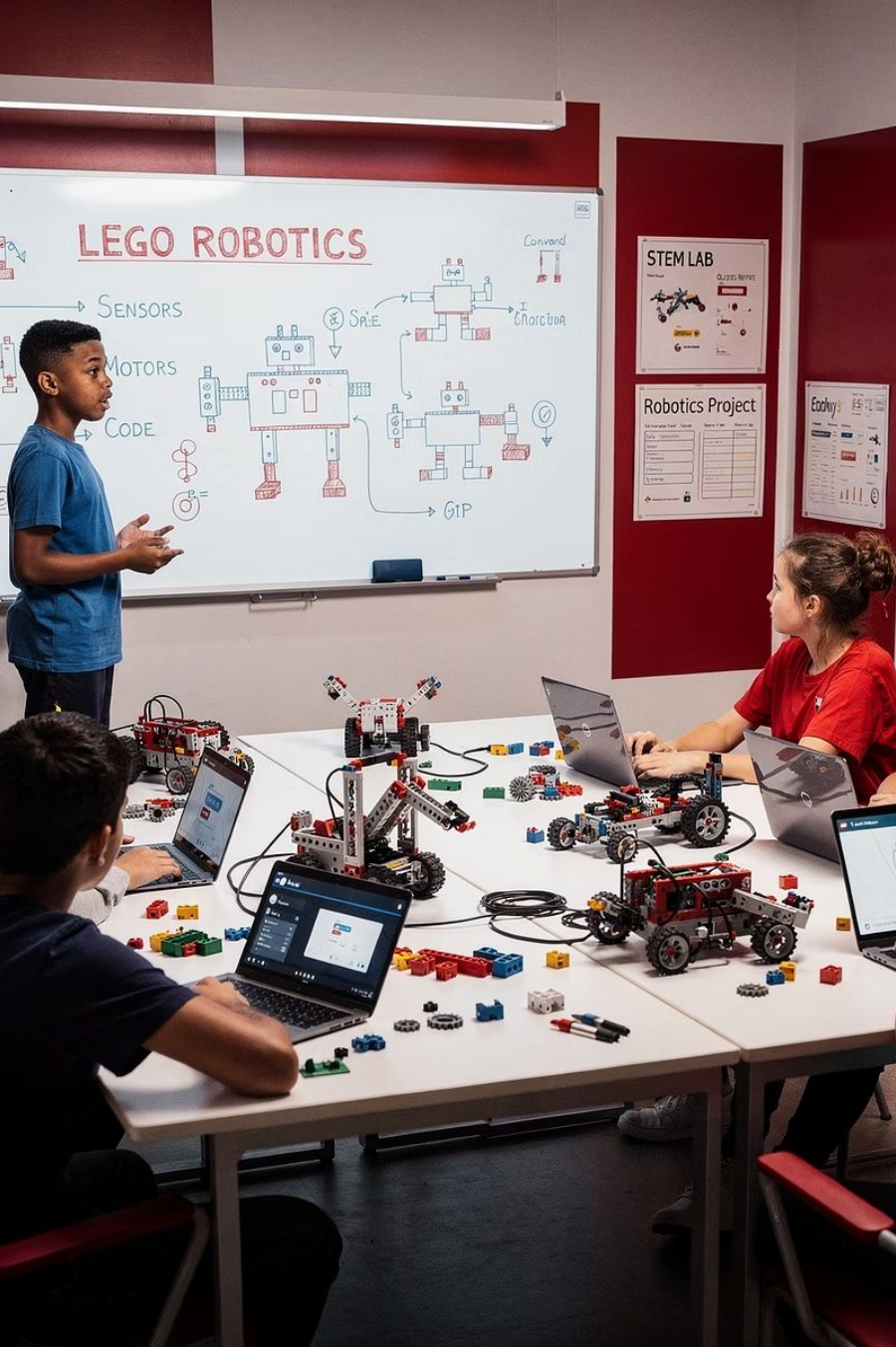
Programming Highlights

Coaching & Professional Development

86 coaches trained this season — 52 at our annual two-day institute at UPenn, 34 more at schools and organizations citywide. Coaches receive monthly PD and 1:1 support. A specialized Python coding workshop, in partnership with FIRST Robotics and Springside Chestnut Hill, prepares coaches for FIRST's FY28 AI-integrated season.

Workshop & Community Outreach

35 workshops completed with community partners across Philadelphia, providing STEM exposure to students in historically underserved communities. Partners included Philadelphia Youth Basketball, Girls Inc., KIPP, Mastery Charter, Philly Parks & Recreation, After School Activities Partners, UPenn/Philadelphia LINC, and the Department of Human Services.

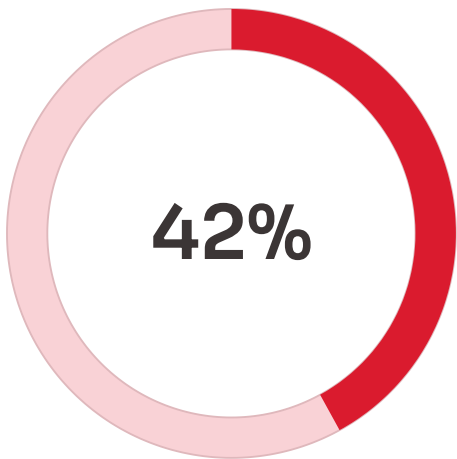


Micai, Beeber Robotics Student

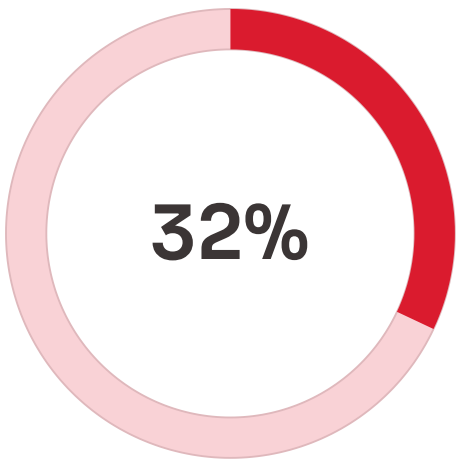
"I realized that my school has a robotics program when I was in the fifth grade. So, I joined and I had all this fun."

Robotics Season & Student Demographics

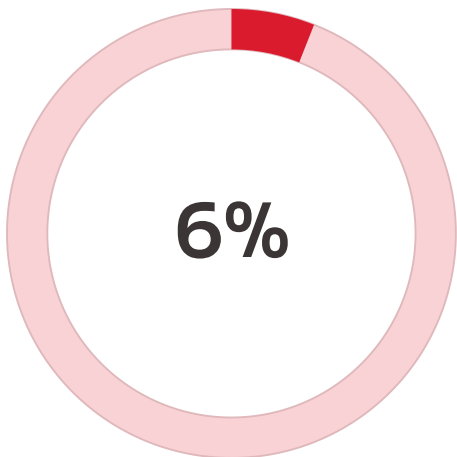
PRC supports **95 teams across 65 schools in 30 of Philadelphia's 41 zip codes**. Spring enrollment exceeded 800 active students.



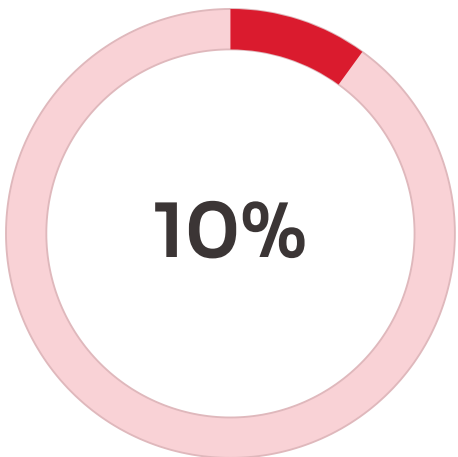
African American



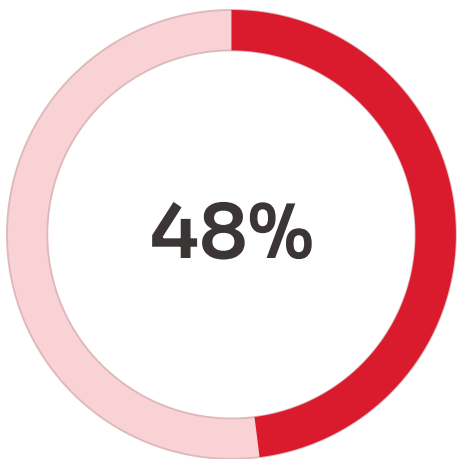
White



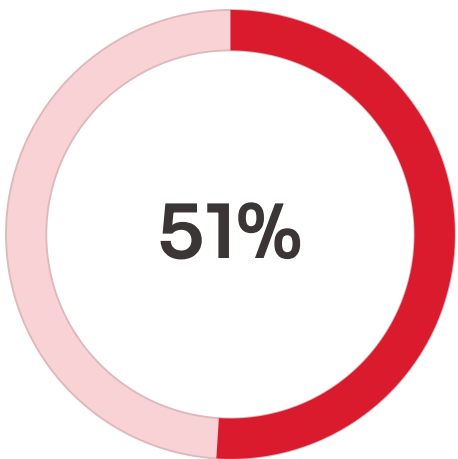
Asian



Hispanic



Girls

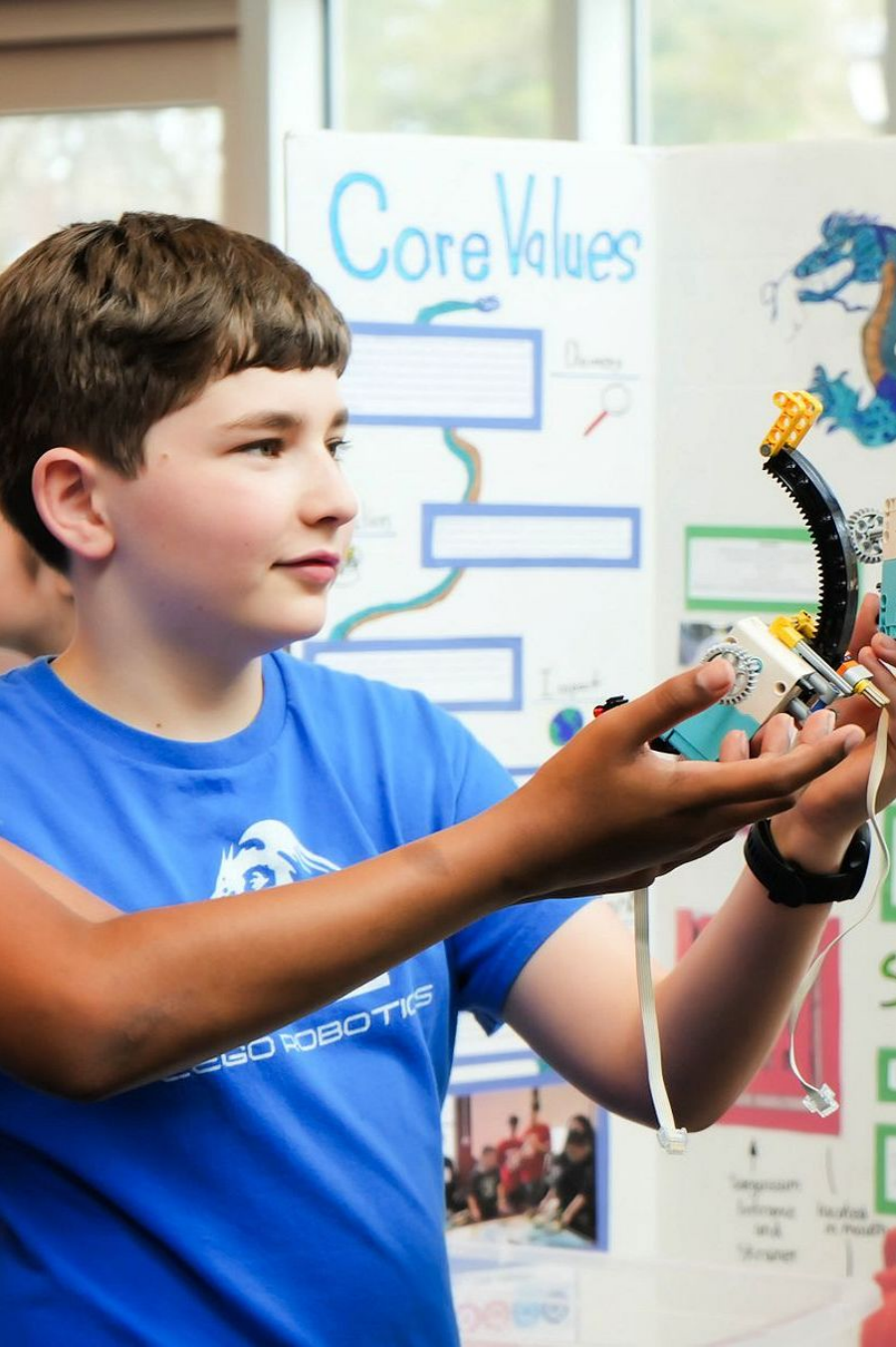


Boys



Darnell, Morrison Robotics Student

“My friends and I, every time we start coding, they say, 'How do you do this or that,' and I'll be the first to tell them. I love showing them what I learn.”



Innovation Project and Festival Academy

PRC hosted the annual **Innovation Project and Festival Academy** in collaboration with Jefferson University Engineering in the spring. Jefferson engineering students and STEM career professionals provided mentorship and presentation coaching, giving all participants direct exposure to STEM college and career pathways.

Workforce Development & Apprenticeship Program



30+ Workforce Opportunities

Career panels, campus visits, and apprenticeship connections through UPenn, CCP, Bryn Mawr, St. Joseph's, Jefferson, and the Department of Defense.



High School Apprentice Program

Apprentices train under PRC's Four Radical Pillars: **Curiosity, Belonging, Self-Efficacy, and STEAM Identity** — developing professional skills and earning income.



Pipeline Partnerships

The CCP Career and Advanced Technology Center and the Urban Technology Project create a clear, supported post-secondary pathway for students who move through PRC's pipeline beyond high school.

Executive Student Action Committee



The Executive Student Action Committee (Student Ambassador) program holds bi-weekly meetings giving high school robotics students a seat at the table in organizational decision-making, while developing them as mentors, advocates, and community leaders. This year, ambassadors facilitated robotics demonstrations at **twelve outreach events** and played a central role in recruiting and retaining students across Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Their stories are not outliers.

Their stories are a huge part of PRC's model for student success.



Student Spotlight — Khristian: Joined as a 10th grader with no prior STEM leadership experience. As a graduating senior, he has mentored over 50 younger students, led community robotics demonstrations, and earned admission and a **full scholarship to Temple University** to study engineering.



Student Spotlight — Eyitemi Joined as a 9th grader with no prior STEM leadership experience. As a graduating senior, Eyitemi led community outreach events, worked with our partner, Girls Inc., and earned admission and a **full scholarship to The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania** to study business and behavioral economics.

Nikita, Student Ambassador

“Our mission is to integrate robotics into the community so it can foster more interest in STEM, starting with the younger kids so they can get a head start and create more scientists and engineers for the future.”



Partnerships & Ecosystem

A growing network of institutional partners powers PRC's work. These relationships are not transactional — they are **structural**, ensuring PRC's impact is woven into Philadelphia's broader STEM ecosystem.

University Partners

UPenn, CCP, Bryn Mawr, St. Joseph's, and Jefferson University provide venues, mentors, and career exposure programming.

Community Partners

Girls Inc., Urban Technology Project, Hidden Genius Project, and Black Girls Love Math extend reach into historically excluded communities.

Projected Funding Pipeline

City of Philadelphia, United Way, Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards, corporate STEM employers, and government workforce development contracts.

 The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects STEM occupations in the Philadelphia region will grow by over **156% by 2030**. In a city with the highest poverty rate among the ten largest American cities, PRC's answer is: **our students will be ready.**



Coach Balanovich, Cassidy

“By coaching robotics, I hope to inspire students to become interested in STEM activities and become our new scientists, engineers, technicians, and builders who will be leading the future of technology.”

Our Vision for the Next Three Years

PRC has a goal to increase funding to:



Expand Apprenticeship Program

Add two additional school sites and hire a full-time Workforce Development Coordinator.



Reach All 41 Zip Codes

Close the gap on 11 Philadelphia zip codes where PRC teams do not yet exist.



Grow Girls in STEM

Expand the RoboMath Academy with Black Girls Love Math and our partnership with Girls Inc. to serve K-12 girls across the region.



Formalize Student Leadership

Grow the Student Ambassador program and formalize its role as a permanent leadership pipeline.



Coach Wilkins, Edmonds

"It's important to give students an experience that they may not have ever had an opportunity to have before."

We Are at an Inflection Point

The infrastructure built with generous donations — expanded staff, supported a pilot Apprenticeship Program, partnerships, and network of **65 schools and 95 teams**. We are ready to scale. Increased revenue would establish PRC as a **permanent, equity-centered pillar of Philadelphia's STEM workforce pipeline for generations to come**.

- On behalf of the students, coaches, families, and communities PRC serves across Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey — thank you. We are eager to show the world, in three more years, what **"Robotics in Every Neighborhood: From Cradle to Career"** truly looks like at scale.

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