

## **PRESS RELEASE**



### **ARI Hosts Robotics-Minded Campers**

WORCESTER, Massachusetts, July 31, 2018 – Seventeen robot enthusiasts from ages 8 to 12 years old learned there is a big difference between Lego robots at school and servo robots made for the plastics industry. The campers from the Worcester Academy Robotics Camp spent the morning at ARI's Worcester Technical Center on Tuesday, July 31.

The students clambered down the stairs to the Tech Center and in no time, they were hands-on, writing lines of program and seeing it executed by a robot in real time. While it was the first time they had seen an industrial robot in a manufacturing environment, they were quick to understand the human / machine interface and how the programmable logic controller (PLC) is used to execute commands.

"The kids would input a command and the robot would output a function. Soon they were modifying sequences while the robot was running," said Tim Lavigne, Business Unit Manager for ARI. "It was fun to see the expression on the student's faces once they could see their input commands translate into a motion that the robot would execute" said Tyler Alcock, Service Manager at ARI.

Said Alcock, "I have spoken about the field of robotics at various schools, but this is the first time I had the opportunity to show kids what a career in robotics could really look like. Whenever we have the chance to introduce students to the field of automation and plastics, we are happy to do so."

The campers also saw the injection molding machines in the Tech Center, which provided the opportunity to learn how plastic parts are made and how the machine and robot communicate through signal interfacing.

One of the owners of the Absolute Group of Companies, Nate Smith, attended the Worcester Academy and Smith reached out to the camp director, Paul Himottu, to see if he would be interested in the visit as part of the curriculum. The Robotics Camp is an inquiry-based experience that encourages motivated students to explore the fundamental concepts of engineering through robotics.

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ARI (Absolute Robot, Inc.) was founded to provide North and Central American molders with a cost-effective robot line that ranges from pneumatic pickers through to full servo, 5-axis robots that may be equipped on machines up to 3300 tons. The product offerings from ARI include a full range of X and XW Series pneumatic sprue pickers, MaxA/AW, MaxBW and MaxCW Series full-servo robots and IML automation.

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PHOTO 1: The visit started with an overview of servo robotics technology from ARI's Service Manager, Tyler Alcock.

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PHOTO 2: Campers form two lines to begin the hands-on portion of the robotics training



PHOTO 3: ARI's Business Unit Manager Tim Lavigne (left) answers questions while Service Manager Tyler Alcock shows students how to use the robot's control. The robot on the left is a MaxA05-1000P and the robot on the right (the larger robot) is a MaxBW15-1700P. Both are 3-axis robots.



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PHOTO 4: "It was very cool to see how engaged the kids became. Their programming questions were quite sophisticated. Perhaps a few of them found a career path today," said Business Unit Manager Tim Lavigne.