

# iSTEM students discover the future of robotics

---

On Tuesday 15 November, Years 9 and 10 iSTEM students attended a Robotics workshop hosted by Dr Edoardo Ivan Sarda, Assistant Professor of Robotics Engineering at Lake Superior State University (LSSU), in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, USA. Dr Sarda was joined by Meriden alumna Madeleine Whip, Class of 2020, who attends LSSU and is currently in her second year as a student and an athlete. Dr Sarda and Madeleine are visiting Australia to represent LSSU at an international robotics competition in Sydney.



Dr Edoardo Ivan Sarda, Madeleine Whip and Erika Lee with Alice the robot

Dr Sarda gave an excellent presentation on the future of engineering and timed the presentation to include a live virtual tour of his laboratory back in Michigan. The students were amazed at the level of hands-on experience engineering students have at LSSU and were equally amazed when Alice, a fifty-centimetre-tall robot, gave an inspiring presentation that included a well-choreographed dance sequence.

The presentation from an international academic and a Meriden alumna sparked the interest of the Years 9 and 10 girls and gave them a chance to consider the prospect of studying internationally when undertaking tertiary studies.

In the past few years, Meriden has had many of its sports stars compete and study internationally. Through initiatives like this visit, it is hoped our students will be given a global perspective in relation to their studies and beyond.

In my role as Coordinator of Learning Link - Student Futures, I look forward to meeting with many of our aspiring students with interests in STEM and innovation, cocurricular activities and sport to see how I can help them access opportunities outside our domestic borders.

## Mr Ryan Richards

Coordinator of Learning Link – Student Futures



Dr Edoardo Ivan Sarda and Madeleine Whip with Years 9 and 10 iSTEM students