Hi everyone, I’m Paul Daugherty from Accenture and I am thrilled to welcome you to Hour of Code today!

It’s not an exaggeration to say that learning to code can completely alter the path of your life. Coding is essential to build the tools, technologies and innovations that will shape the future—your future—while also nurturing your problem-solving skills, logic and creativity.

I first learned to code when I was a kid, and I got hooked right away. I kept studying computer science and ultimately learned how coding could be the launching pad to an exciting career in technology.

Today, I am the Chief Technology and Innovation Officer—and Chief Coder—for Accenture, a global company that uses technology innovation to improve the way the world works and lives.

This year, we created a super fun coding tutorial about AI—or Artificial Intelligence. AI is the type of technology that powers things like Alexa or Siri and is something that is fundamentally transforming our future. I hope you give it a try.

So, have some fun, soak up your Hour of Code, and take the opportunity you have today to learn something new and maybe even find a new dream...imagine where coding could take you!