Priya Rajagopal is a computer science teacher at Connecticut River Academy. After studying Engineering in India, Priya worked in Informational Technology (IT) before switching careers to become a teacher. **Information Technology is when hardware and software is used to organize and share information.**

While working in IT, Priya was a software engineer. She created applications and programs for businesses. Priya noticed that there were not a lot of students learning computer science at school. This is a problem because there are many jobs that need to be filled.

Priya became a teacher so that she could provide more students with experience in computer science. She loves being both an engineer and a teacher!

Priya is a woman of color and has experienced discrimination. These experiences make her passionate about providing instruction to students of all backgrounds. **Priya wants to create equal opportunities for all students to succeed in computer science.**

Priya launched a Girls Who Code chapter at her school to help more girls become interested in coding. She also runs many coding events in her school district for all students to attend. She uses her experience as a software engineer to bring people from local IT companies to these events. This allows students to explore future careers in coding!

Priya wants you to know that coding can be tricky at first, but it's also really enjoyable! **Just like learning any new skill, it takes time and practice.** Her advice for new coders is to ask for help from your teachers and friends.

When Priya isn't teaching or coding, she enjoys biking, dancing, traveling, and spending time with her family. **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**