\_\*\*##### TIKA S SMITH\*\*\_

\*\*#### My Interest in the Coding Program at ADA\*\*

I was approached by my doctor about the program at *ADA*. He spoke very highly about it, had a friend who went through the program and had a successful career, and he knew that would be a good fit as well. After doing some research of my own online, I got really excited about applying. Unfortunately, I had to wait until now… BUT, well worth the wait! So very grateful for the opportunity to be in a state where such training is offered free of cost to women, giving us opportunities at better paying jobs and job security.

\*\*\_I have interest in this program because:\_\*\*

\*It’s going to prepare me for a better future, being a single mother of 4.

\*Job placement rate is at 97%. That’s HUGE in today’s job market.

\*I’ve always had an interest for computers. I’m currently in school for health informatics. Software Developer would be a dream job for me.

*I’ve already exposed myself to programming* by reading up on it, and also have friends that work at Microsoft as *Software Developers*. I’m a curious cat, and I learn hands on. So at work, I tend to hang around the IT guys and gals for guidance.

I had the chance to read over *Ada’s Vision*, Mission and Inclusivity Statement, and I was very inspired. That’s an Alma Mater I want on my resume. Everyone is created equal and should not be treated otherwise. I am an African born, and I bring much culture and diversity to the community. I know that I will feel welcomed there. If I was blessed to be accepted into the program at Ada, I would hope to be a *Senior Software Developer* for Microsoft in 5 years, and teaching or tutoring students at Ada part time.

A mistake I made that I learned a lot from was leaving my sick dad in the hospital Dec 17th of 2003 to run back home to Minnesota and spend Christmas with my young kids. I’ve never spend the holidays without them. Well, that was the last I would have seen my dad alive. Had I known, I would have spent that last Christmas with him. He died on Jan 4th in Maryland.