Hey Chuck,

This is Brian Grant, we have talked at the PDX Ruby Brigade, as well as in the hallway at 400 SW 6th. I am currently a student at Epicodus, and am approaching the end of my time in the Ruby on Rails/JavaScript track. I came across your name on a list of community members who would be willing to provide some coaching or mentorship to students of the program. I would appreciate the opportunity to buy you a lunch or a few beers and talk over some questions I am facing as the time to find my first programming job is fast approaching.

To give you a short introduction to my background, I graduated from college with an anthropology degree and found myself working in the non-profit sector, then organizing an elementary school reading program through AmeriCorps after college. I loved working with the students but realized I was not destined to work in a school environment. After spending some years in a technical support role, I took some coding classes at PCC and felt this might be an actual career path, so I enrolled at Epicodus. It has been a life changing experience and I have been working hard to learn all I can about programming, collaborative work, and being a good communicator. I have taken an active part in a few meetups in town including the Free Code Camp group and am working on my first update for the pre-show slides for the Brigade meetings. I am very excited as well to be participating in the upcoming session of Hack Oregon and learning to build APIs in Django in the process.

I am trying to figure out how best to focus my activities in the coming months to prepare both for the interviews as well as to have a solid foundation to be a great member of a team at my next place of employment. Any advice you would be able to share on these topics, best practices in coding, or anything else you feel would be valuable to a new Ruby programmer to know, I would love to hear it. I’d also want to hear how the bathroom laser challenge turned out.

If you would be unable to help at this time I would appreciate if you could make a recommendation of someone you think might be willing and a good fit as a mentor.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Grant

[brian@bhgconcepts.com](mailto:brian@bhgconcepts.com)

<http://www.bhgconcepts.com>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/brianhgrant>

<http://www.github.com/brianhgrant>