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Quarter 4 Report of Progress

In my action plan for this quarter, I outlined 4 main objectives. I was to add any extras to the website to make it look better (JavaScript slideshow, CSS), clean up code, and finally proofread website content and test for bugs. Going into quarter 4 I was slightly behind where I planned to be with the website. In quarter 3 I didn't completely finish the website and there were two sections that needed to be touched up and finished. The two sections that still needed work were the "Why is Financial Aid Important" section and the "FAFSA and CSS" information page. I wanted it to be a convenient and educational resource to help other high school students, but due to the lack of limited time I wanted to keep these remaining sections as simplistic as possible.

My vision of the final website has changed greatly from quarter to quarter. I looked over people's code on public forums using javascript slideshows to find how I was going to present the FAFSA and CSS section. I found the different javascript examples I found online to create the slide show did not work well with my website and used things like HTML5 which I'm not familiar with - it would require me to use a new language I don't feel comfortable using. I ended up using a more simple two-column design. One side is for the FAFSA form, it includes some base information and a link to the studentaid.gov website to fill out the FAFSA. On the right-hand side is the CSS Profile, there I have another few points of basic information which point out the differences between the two forms and the link to the college board CSS profile

page. When the user hovers over one column it lightens up and then goes back to gray after the user goes to the next side. It is a small feature but I think it is something cool enough that adds to the detailing of the website and I'm happy I did it because I think it allowed me to present more information while keeping the website organized compared to a slide show. I would have liked to include more information about the forms on each side - I know I would have appreciated having all the information in one place during my college search- but that section of the website started to look unorganized and the tables weren't lining up so I stuck to 5 bullet point facts. I think 5 is enough to give students an introduction to the two different forms. I also included the cost of both forms above the link - I think knowing the FAFSA is free will encourage more students to fill it out.

Next, I completed the section above "Why is Financial Aid Important". This section was fairly easy and quick to complete as it's mostly just information compiling. I started the first paragraph in this section by talking about what financial aid is and how it is provided. I then talked about the difference between merit-based and need-based aid. In the next paragraph, I briefly introduced the FAFSA and CSS form. Finally, I discussed that if the student needs any help with either form they should set up an appointment with Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. I made a long box at the bottom with a few facts in case the viewer didn't want to read through the paragraphs and just to add to the styling of the website.

The finalized product of my website has changed substantially since quarter 1, but the main idea of the website has stayed the same. The core function of the website is to help high school students with the confusing college search process including the financial aspect and I feel like the website, now finished, will be helpful to students. Now that I am done with the website I can move on to editing my digital portfolio for the remainder of the quarter.