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AOIT III

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Quarter 3 Report of Progress

In my action plan for this quarter, I outlined 3 main objectives. I was to continue coding the body of the website, add any images and additional content, and complete needed adjustments to the design, colors, and images (CSS). Going into quarter 3 I was already behind where I planned to be, so by the end of this quarter I still am trailing behind by a little. The task I took on this quarter was coding the college search feature of my website. I wanted it to be a convenient and educational resource to help other high school students. I found during my own college search process that there isn't a website that exists to search for schools specific to their financial aid, so the college search section of my website was supposed to fill that need.

My vision of the final product has changed greatly as I did research on colleges and HTML features. I looked over people's code on public forums using javascript and HTML5 that pulled information from google directly but as I dove deeper into it, it became too confusing to follow. I found it extremely difficult to use the javascript elements I found online to create my college search engine - it would require me to dive back into learning new parts of a coding language I don't completely feel comfortable with and with the limitations of at-home learning during COVID and me having limited time between working and moving houses I found it too complex and impractical. I moved on to my backup plan to make the college search section less of a "search engine" and more of a "directory". For now, the college search section is composed of three different buttons that when clicked show a table of schools that are in that category of

demonstrated financial need. Inside the table, for each school, it displays the city/state, acceptance rate, type (liberal, private, state), and percentage of financial need meet with contingencies if there are any for that school. I wanted to include additional information about schools but it became too much to do because I had to research 25+ schools for each category and enter each piece of information by hand. I also embedded a link in the name of the school to that school's financial aid page. I would have liked to include more information about schools on the table - I know I would have appreciated having all the information in one place during my college search- but I don't think I have the time to, considering I still need to finish the website next quarter. One of the extra table columns I would have liked to include was a "yes or no" box for whether a school requires a CSS profile since some schools do and some don't, and they sometimes don't reach out to students so it can be easily looked over and not submitting the profile could mean a student receives less money in need-based grants or won't qualify for some scholarships. I think what I have now will still be helpful since I have a link to each school's financial aid page so most needed information can be found there.

Next, I need to complete the other sections of my website like the "FAFSA and CSS" section and the "Why is Financial Aid Important?" section. These sections should be fairly easy and quick to complete as it's mostly just information compiling. For the FAFSA and CSS section I was just going to insert some helpful links or maybe insert a PDF document. I was hoping to be ahead of where I am now so I could have the time to add extra cool features to these sections like a javascript slideshow but I think I'm too limited on time now.

The finalized product of my website has changed 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 when finished will do that. I feel confident that I can complete the remaining sections of my website and I can catch up to where I planned to be for the first half of quarter 4.