**John C. Balsamo**

6405 Tennessee Avenue | Willowbrook, IL 60527 | (630) 512-1821 | balsamoj52@dupage.edu

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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| **Quality Control Specialist** | May 2016 – Present |
| Resource Plastics - Alsip, IL | Checked incoming and outgoing shipments of plastic for contaminants and prepared them for retail. |
| **Customer Service/Stocker** | November 2015 – January 2016 |
| Target - Willowbrook, IL | Seasonal work, assisted store customers and stocked merchandise using barcode scanner |
| **Boxer/Palletizer** | July 2015 – August 2015 |
| West Liberty Foods - Bolingbrook, IL | Boxed and palletized lunch meats on night shift in order to pay for school |
| **Customer Service** | April 2015 – July 2015 |
| Grand Services - Oakbrook, IL | Built and maintained live floral displays at Home Depot stores and assisted with customer service |
| **Research Assistant** | May 2014 – August 2014 |
| University of Illinois Research Plots - Champaign, IL | Conducted wheat breeding research. Designed spreadsheets to track and analyze disease resistance in wheat and oats. |
| **Retail Garden Assistant** | May 2013 – August 2013 |
| Verngoers Greenhouse - Hinsdale, IL | Assisted customers with product selection, assembled seasonal plant arrangements and stocked them for display |

EDUCATION HISTORY

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| Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago IL | 2016-Present |
| College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn IL | 2015-2016, Graduated with honors, Associate in Arts |
| University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign IL | 2013-2014 |
| Montini Catholic High School, Lombard IL | 2013 Graduate |
| Illinois State Scholar | Science-focused electives |

SKILLS, INTERESTS, AND WORK ETHIC

Computers and the outdoors have always competed for my time. In high school I was the Computer club President and enjoyed tearing into hardware and upgrading chip sets, motherboards, hard drives, and power supply units as well as manipulating the software to make it all work. In science classes I really enjoyed studying plants and always had the thought in the back of my mind that plant-based genetics would uncover the cure for cancer. When it came time to decide on a college and a path of study I pursued my plant based genetics interest and unfortunately found most time and energy in the program was spent on the agri-business component. I learned a lot and have no regrets, but I became disinterested in the topic and decided to pursue an education focusing on computers, which lead me to the Illinois Institute of Technology.

As you can see by my job history I have always tried to work when not in class. Some of these jobs had long, demanding hours in very hot or very cold conditions. Pursuing a meaningful career has been worth the energy I have expended to both rule out one path, and to be certain of the next.

REFERENCES

Dr. Frederik Kolb- Professor/Research Director for University of Illinois Small Grains Department, f-kolb@illinois.edu

Kathy Kotowski- Academic Advisor, Kowtowsk@cod.edu

Phillip Goers- Owner of Verngoers Greenhouse, verngoersgreenhouse@gmail.com