Becoming a Computer Scientist

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Everyone must make the decision to develop their skills for their professional field. For Alexander Lawrence Benedict, it was computer science. Alexander Benedict, born in Rochester NY, moved to Puerto Rico at the age of four and spent 14 years living there. **Based on his leadership, knowledge, and experience, Alexander is a desirable member for the computer science workforce.**  During his adolescence years, Alexander contributed to the community.

While living in Puerto Rico, Alexander was an active part of the community. When the 2010 Haiti disaster occurred, Alexander sprang into action. From 2010 to 2014, Alexander aided in rebuilding homes and churches in Haiti. In addition, he spent countless hours creating fundraisers that would go towards reconstructing the impacted towns of Haiti. While fundraising, he still contributed to the Puerto Rico community by leading a team to clean up beaches. From his volunteer work, he earned many strong leadership characteristics: passion, dedication, and patience, **which he uses during his time at Binghamton University.**

After 14 years living abroad, Alexander returned to the United States of America being proficient in both English and Spanish. Alexander became knowledgeable in hardware, when he enlisted in a computer engineering degree, at Binghamton University**. In classes, such as Intro to Engineering Analysis, he gained the ability to assemble and disassemble many household appliances with ease to improve their efficiency**. Eventually, Alexander came to the decision to switch to Computer Science. Switching degrees opened the possibility to create hardware and software projects. Since switching majors, Alexander became fluent in Java, C, C++, and Assembly. Being knowledgeable in Java and C++ increases Alexanders job opportunities. In Bouwkamps (2016) summary article, reviewing the nine most in demand programing languages, Java and C++ are highly in demand. “Java has staying power since it has long-term compatibility, which makes sure older applications continue to work now into the future. It’s not going anywhere anytime soon and is used to power company websites like LinkedIn.com, Netflix.com and Amazon.com.” Alexander’s Java knowledge can benefit various companies. Bouwkamps mentions that many applications were written with C++. Alexander will have many choices http://www.codingdojo.com/blog/9-most-in-demand-programming-languages-of-2016/

Several of his accomplishments is a result of his hard work and intelligence. In his high school at Puerto Rico he was a part of the top three in all his math courses, for which he won many gold medals for his excellence in the subject. At Binghamton University, Alexander had to recall on his leadership skills along with his intellect to successfully compete in two Hackathons. In fall of 2016 he attended his first Hackathon. During the Hackathon, Alexander and his partner successfully created an android app that added or deleted grocery items that the user had at home. The app could create a septate grocery list of what the user needed to purchase. Alexander oversaw the planning and development of the project; with all his efforts, the app was a success. For his second Hackathon, Alexander created a website to connect employers and applicants. Employers could browse the website and filter for certain criteria and the applicants fitting the criteria would pop up with a short biography of themselves listing their skills. In his Sophomore Design course, he successfully programed a rover that can solve its way out of a maze, as well as to go to a specific coordinate in a plane, with x and y binary coordinates. Alexander surrounded the maze with switches that would throw either a 0 or a 1 and the rover would look for those coordinates and go to it. Afterwards he added a light sensor to the rover, this would let it self-navigate out of a maze. One remarkable accomplishment of Alexander is his work on piezo electric crystals that potentially, could charge a person’s phone. The crystal is modeled in Solid Edge and then is modified in a person’s shoe sole. As a person walks there will be some electric charge which could, in the future, charge a device. Alexanders drive for new creations has paved his path of many accomplishments.

Dedication, strong leadership characteristics, and accomplishments shaped Alexander to be the strong and well-rounded student that he is. This is on par for what is necessary to be successful in society today. Alexander has proven time after time that he is capable of being able to take the initiative and complete his goals. This is seen in the several projects he has created; from an Android app to working on a crystal that will generate electricity with every footstep taken. It is also seen from the numerous hours he has dedicated to improving his community. Alexanders intelligence aided him in gaining his skills, which he used to contribute to society.