D/O Danielle O'Neal

Full Stack Developer

DEAR FUTURE EMPLOYER:

First of all, thanks for taking the time to read my cover letter. I'm sure you see hundreds of these all day long, and taking that fraction of your time just to read mine means more than you know. You're the real MVP here! To go along with that, I'm sure many of those cover letters belong to resumes of talented developers with years of professional experience. I have yet to obtain years of 'professional' experience, since that's exactly what I'm after. But where I lack in quantity, I DO make up for in quality. Let me tell you about the experience I DO have and why you should invest in me!

About 3 years ago, after getting my Bachelor's Degree in Biomed and working at a hospital, I determined that being a doctor was actually not what I wanted to do in life. I have always been into tech and computers and loved designing things. Web Development just made sense, not to mention the schooling wasn't nearly as long and I could make just as much money! I set out and obtained my degree in Web Development, but I didn't feel like I learned much. I heard about Lambda school and went for it. More coding experience can't hurt, right?

In those 9 months at Lambda, many things happened. I worked with multiple different teams of different developers, diving into React and Node, learning how to build RESTful API's and beautiful, fully responsive web applications. I learned how to plan a project from scratch start to finish. I learned how to use different styling libraries and preprocessors, what a reducer even was and how to implement it.

Then, they hired me as a Team Lead. I became a leader, and helped the new students learn what I've already been taught, just building my knowledge even further. Not only did I know this stuff, I knew it well enough to help teach it. I have developed strong collaboration abilities and fostered a reputation as a key contributor through critical thinking and leadership skills.

After that, I became a Section Lead. I was now put in charge of a group of 8 team leads, around 90 developers, and their 8 week projects. I basically became a project manager and loved it. I was the main communication between stakeholders, design engineers and upper management for all of these teams. I made sure any concern was addressed within a timely manner, pushed for deadlines, and helped keep the teams productive and goal-oriented.

There's so much more I'd love to be able to demonstrate and discuss with you. Not only have I learned many different languages, I've solidified my understanding of them enough to be able to teach and build new teams as well. I know how to work in a team environment and know how to Google any other time. Things change often, especially in the tech world, and I'm always striving to keep learning and make myself a better developer. I just need the MVP's like you to believe in the little guys like me without a ton of professional experience. I look forward to helping each other out!

Yours truly (and hopefully soon),

Danielle O'Neal

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