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Having worked as a TA has brought me many meaningful learning experiences from professors to students. During my first and second year in college at New Mexico Tech I worked as a TA for an intro level C programming class. This TA position also involved working with students in a lab environment. While mainly for Computer Science students, many of the students who took the class either had an interest or requirement for taking it. This aspect of the class allowed for many different perspectives and learning styles. With this came the challenge of being a TA and having to work with all sorts of students. After some time I came to the realization, being someone who is taking Computer Science as a major and having to work with people who were likely not in Computer Science required some workaround not to get too technical. This was attenuated by the fact that in the lab setting you cannot know beforehand the problems that will occur, so on the fly thinking was required. It took some time, but after some time learning all sorts of problems and getting familiar with the students I was able to achieve this feat. I achieved it through constantly adapting to the students' needs and what was best for them. What this experience taught me is that while I am passionate about making sure that students learn as much as they can, it won't matter if I fail to reach them in a manner that is clear and concise.

I have enjoyed working with Computers for many years of my life which is why I chose Computer Science. However, with this deep passion for the subject after I entered college I realized that I was nowhere near the level I thought I was. Taking the introductory level courses showed me how much I didn’t know. Disappointed at first thinking about how little I know about my passion, I subconsciously told myself that this is only an opportunity to show myself that I can learn anything with effort. I would make sure that every class I took I would do my best to make sure that I thought about the course and why exactly I am learning the things I am learning and how to apply them. After taking my first higher level class, Discrete Mathematics, in my freshman year I had reflected quite heavily on the class. I had never taken a class that I had understood less whilst I was taking it, but I still thought to myself about the concepts, looking further into them to understand them better. This became apparent when in my sophomore year I took my first higher level Computer Science class. We were discussing a topic about the pigeonhole principle, and I just knew that I had heard about it before. For reference, the pigeonhole principle is a compartmentalized storage space, typically with small compartments or slots, used to organize and categorize items. After some brief thoughts I came to the realization that this is what I have researched more after taking the class. This was amazing to me as I was finally using things that I had learned previously to apply to situations within my field. Even after many courses later I still am applying what I learned from previous courses. While I may have not been able to really explore everything that I have learned, everything that I do learn I take as a challenge to myself to really understand the concept.

As I have grown I have found myself to be quite reserved, but outgoing in specific environments. One such environment is volleyball. Volleyball has been an outlet for myself where I found that I am able to really show another side of myself. Being the former captain of a volleyball team and

an ongoing player I push myself to make sure that my team stays motivated through dirt and mud. Even when we are losing I still keep my head high and try to make everyone the highlight of the play. I do this because, throughout my time trying to motivate everyone I have found that showing my passion and pushing my energy into it engages everyone to do their best. For as long as we have not lost, the game is not over. While the most obvious, this is not the only thing I do to keep everyone motivated. I also try to do subtle things that would go under the radar such as individually commenting on plays and trying to form connections with everyone. From this I have learned that no matter the obstacles in the end everything works best if everyone involved is on the same page, and keeping everyone motivated is the easiest way to stay on that page.

From all of these personal experiences, I have learned a lot about myself and what works best for those around me. I hope to be able to apply everything that I have learned to better the work environment and continuously improve my own skills. For each of the points tackled in my statement, I hope to be able to add a great learning experience for those I work with while working on myself, continue to work within an area I am really passionate about, and when the project is very difficult I will strive to make sure that my peers are motivated.