

Name: Tebibu Kebede

Competency: Research, Scholarly, &
Creative Activity

My journey as a CodePath Tech Fellow Mentor for Android Development at MNSU was a defining moment in my academic and personal growth. Initially, I grappled with impostor syndrome. The first day was nerve-wracking; I feared being asked questions I couldn't answer and doubted my abilities. But let me backtrack a bit. A Tech Fellow is essentially a teaching assistant, guiding students through their challenges and being a supportive figure while also managing their own work. I was chosen for this role because of my success in the same course previously, and I was eager to give back, much like the Tech Fellows who had supported me.

Despite my initial nerves, my approach was to take things one step at a time. Whenever students asked me something unfamiliar, I dedicated myself to researching the answer, ensuring I was better prepared for the next session. This experience was more than just about teaching; it was a journey into effective leadership and research. I learned to lean on my fellow Tech Fellows for support, and as the course progressed, my knowledge deepened. I didn't just understand the course content; I mastered it, enabling me to guide my students with confidence and clarity.

This role challenged me to transform my nervous energy into a driving force for learning and leadership. It taught me the value of preparation, the importance of asking for help, and the need to constantly evolve. This wasn't just a teaching role; it was a real-world research project where I learned to synthesize information quickly and effectively.

The skills and insights I gained as a Tech Fellow have directly translated into my other coursework at MNSU. My enhanced research capabilities, born out of necessity in the Tech Fellow role, have made me more efficient and thorough in my studies. Looking ahead, I see these skills as invaluable in both my academic and professional future. Whether it's tackling new technology, leading a team, or engaging in complex problem-solving, the lessons I've learned here will be a guiding force.

I've also realized the importance of mentorship both receiving it and providing it. As I progress in my career, I intend to continue this cycle of learning and teaching, recognizing that knowledge is most valuable when shared.

Reflecting on my time as a Tech Fellow, I recognize it was an intense learning curve that reshaped my approach to education and leadership. It was more than imparting knowledge; it was about growing alongside my students, learning to embrace challenges, and turning self-doubt into self-improvement. This experience has not just prepared me for future technical roles but has also instilled a deeper understanding of the human aspects of teaching and mentorship. The realization that vulnerability and strength can coexist has been a profound takeaway, one that I will carry with me into all future endeavors.