**Iowa State University**

Iowa State University is a four-year public higher education facility. Founded in 1858 as Ames Agricultural College, ISU has grown over the years to incorporate a large range of fields across a variety of disciplines. Computer Science is in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

I transferred to ISU in the fall of 2014. I the foremost reason I chose ISU was the academic rigor. Iowa State has an excellent computer science program; At ISU, I felt I would be challenged and gain knowledge to help me become a fully-fledged developer. This prediction has turned out to be largely correct. Classes like C/C++ Development and Databases have taught me concepts instrumental to both computer science and software development. Furthermore, the large size of ISU allows for ample opportunity through extracurricular activities. Groups like Computer Science and Engineering Club and events like HackISU have helped me grow in ways I could not have achieved by academics alone. This is all without mentioning ISU’s excellent career services, which have allowed me to gain internships and, by extension, real-world experience. Although I am graduating in May of 2017, the experience I gained at Iowa State will remain helpful for the rest of my professional career.

**Lafayette College**

Lafayette College is a four-year higher education facility. Founded in 1826 in honor of the legendary general of the same name, Lafayette has consistently top the U.S. News and World Report rankings for top Liberal Arts Colleges. Lafayette has a student population of 2,300. Lafayette puts the entirety of their focus into undergraduate studies, and , as such, does not offer graduate programs.

I first began attending Lafayette the fall of 2012, after my graduation from high school. In typical eighteen year old fashion, I thought I had it all figured out; I was confident that Lafayette would live up to my wildest expectations and I would graduate after four years with a smile on my face. In typical eighteen year old fashion, I was hilariously wrong. Lafayette was, for a myriad of reasons, a horrible fit for me. While I didn’t want to admit it at first, by the end of my sophomore year it became that my lack of passion in regards to my undergrad experience would hinder my performance moving forward. I transferred (in good academic standing) to Iowa State University the following semester.

**Towson University**

Towson University is a four-year higher education facility located in Towson, Maryland. Founded in 1866, Towson has strived to bring affordable education to the citizens of Maryland. As a state school of Maryland, Towson incorporates a large amount of disciplines into its curriculum. Engineering, however, is not offered at Towson.

Unlike Iowa State and Lafayette college, I really didn’t know what to expect for my time at Towson when I enrolled in Spring of 2013. The only thing I did know is that I needed to get away from Lafayette. The college that I thought would be my home for four wonderful years quickly turned into a prison that I desperately needed an escape from. Towson, with credits that would be able to transfer back to Lafayette, was good enough. However, my time at Towson had a number of pleasant surprises that, while not academic in nature, had a profound effect on me going forward. To put it quite simply, Towson University was my first experience with a culture different from that of Lafayette and my hometown. Towson, an affordable state university, attracted a much different set of people with a much different set of values than my 60k-a-year private college. I felt that there was a lot to learn in terms of work ethic, understanding different walks of life, and the massively underrated skill of having a good attitude towards life in general. Most importantly, Towson made me realize just how much I could grow if I simply opened my mind to the road less traveled. While I did not end up staying at Towson, my time there shaped what I look for in an education and career in ways that cannot be understated.