

# Aidyn Hillyard

## Full Stack Software Engineer

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Empathetic, full-stack software engineer with a passion for accessibility through user-driven design. As a diversity and inclusion expert, I bring an equity lens grounded in a deep awareness of the current social and technological landscape. My love of learning and future-oriented approach lead to constant personal and professional growth.

### Key Skills

- Languages: JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, Python, SQL
- Frameworks/Libraries: React, Express, MongoDB, Mongoose, PostgreSQL, Bootstrap, Django
- Tools: Git/Github, Node.js, Postman
- Accessibility: WCAG 2.1 AA, ADA Section 508, NVDA
- Project Management, Strategic Planning, Agile Methodologies

### Professional Experience

Software Engineering Immersive | General Assembly | *Remote* Jan. 2022 - Apr. 2022

- Successfully completed 420+ hours of expert-led instruction in both front-end and back-end software engineering. Developed comprehensive projects, including:
- Restroom Resource API | [GitHub Repository](#) | [Deployed Link](#) | Built with React. The user can search for all-gender restrooms by keyword and save individual results to their list.
- GoalGetter | [GitHub Repository \(Front End\)](#) | [GitHub Repository \(Back End\)](#) | Built with MERN (MongoDB, Express, React, and Node). The user can create groups and projects in order to delineate and achieve their goals.
- Grow | [GitHub Repository](#) | [Deployed Link](#) | Built with React. A text-based game where the player must grow plants and trade them with townspeople to find out more about their past... and their future.

Sr Employment Counselor, MN Family Investment Program | Hired | *Remote* Jan. 2020 – Aug. 2021

- Provided career coaching & placement services to 80+ MFIP participants for rapid connection to re-employment
- Collaborated with leadership to tell user stories & write content for Hired's social justice blog
- Designed & implemented multi-year strategic DEI initiatives in conjunction with leadership
- Facilitated quarterly anti-racism, neurodiversity, & LGBTQIA+ professional development for 100+ staff
- Explored Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) results with 20+ board members

Director of Equity and Inclusion | Hennepin Technical College | *Brooklyn Park, MN* Jan. 2019 - Jul. 2019

- Developed, communicated, & cultivated buy-in from stakeholders for FY 2020 strategic DEI plan

- Led cross-campus initiatives to eliminate educational barriers for historically underrepresented students
- Designed & facilitated C-suite level equity workshops to grow their teams' cultural competencies, particularly in web accessibility and neurodivergence
  - Analyzed departmental knowledge gaps to discover multiple opportunities for development
  - Identified individual areas of improvement for C-suite and created tailored equity workshops
- Orchestrated large-scale campus cultural heritage events tied to department, college, system, & accreditation metrics, with a mean assessment score of 4.8 out of 5.0 from 45 respondents

Academic Advisor | Anoka Ramsey Community College | *Coon Rapids, MN*      Sep. 2015 - Jan. 2019

- Cultivated sustained relationships & developed educational plans for caseload of 1,000+ multicultural students
- Developed & executed FY 2016-2020 strategic DEI plan in conjunction with Diversity Committee, resulting in increased recruitment & retention rates of historically underrepresented students, faculty, & staff
  - Coordinated diversity mapping research plan to benchmark change & identify actionable metrics
  - Administered multiple campus-wide qualitative assessments to identify inclusion-related needs
  - Identified goal-oriented themes through data analysis & input from key college stakeholders
  - Developed measurable, time-sensitive objectives to address DEI needs on campus & in the classroom
- Implemented all-gender bathrooms & administered campus-wide LGBTQIA+ workshop series
- Executed new strategies in collaboration with Human Resources to hire, grow, and retain talent from historically underrepresented groups

Counseling Faculty & Career Counselor | Palo Alto College | *San Antonio, TX*      Jan. 2012 – Sep. 2014

- Revitalized course curriculum with cultural relevance to decrease D/F/W rates in first-gen. adult learners
- Utilized universal design & accessibility principles in teaching 200+ students personal & career development, achieving a 4.8/5.0 performance rating
- Raised persistence rates of historically underrepresented students with cross-cultural career counseling
- Engaged at-risk students in personal counseling to identify academic challenges & resource referral
- Improved campus safety through facilitating conflict resolution to address concerns such as suicidal ideation, homelessness, & family violence

### Education

Software Engineering Full-Time Immersive   General Assembly	2022
MA in Counseling, Community Track   The University of Texas at San Antonio	2013
BA in English Literature, Creative Writing Emphasis   The University of Texas at San Antonio	2010