Ashlyn Hanks

Mini Manifesto 1

I have been able to go above and beyond the things that I had planned for myself in college. My number one goal was to just graduate from a good college, and I am doing it in only three years. I knew coming into college that I liked computer science and cybersecurity, but little did I know that I would actually be really good at it, leading the team when our head cyber professor unexpectedly leaves. I have grown so much as a person. I used to be a doormat, but now I stand up for myself and not care if other people think I am bossy. The world has changed so much since I graduated high school, to the point that if I were to go back and tell myself everything with Covid, I think high school me would have laughed. Honestly, it makes me really sad thinking about it. I had all these ideas about what college was going to be like and because of the pandemic, very little of them have come to fruition. I know that many other people have it worse than me in this regard, but it still doesn’t make it hurt any less knowing that I am missing out on what most people call the best years of their life. If I could take a shot each time, I hear the phrase “unpresented times”, I would be having an absolute blast. I think what surprises me the most is how much I have been able to accomplish despite everything in the world and my personal life. I am now a published author on topics of Artificial Intelligence and Synthetic Consciousness. I won the ACM mid-southeast research conference with my presentation on Dynamic Honey Pot Detection. I have been able to serve on the Student Government Association executive counsel for two academic years. I have been inducted into the Order of the Lighted Lamp and am president of 3 different organizations. Sadly, when I first came here there wasn’t a lot of familial support in me pursuing computer science. It was a hard thing to go through, not really feeling like my family supported me. Gosh, it is very nice to be able to prove people wrong though.