

Benita Besa

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EDUCATION

Duke University

Computer Science and Economics

Durham, NC

August 2023 - May 2027

Organizations: SPIRE Fellow, Duke National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Duke Cyber Policy team, Duke Technology Scholars (DTech)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

CS Sidekicks - Computer Science Instructor

Durham, NC

October 2023 - Present

- Teach a cohort of 15 underserved Durham Public School middle school students the fundamental of computer science, leveraging accessible resources such as Code.Org and CodeHS
- Provide mentorship on a weekly basis through personalized guidance to meet individual needs
- Monitor progress on assigned projects, providing timely feedback and assistance as needed.

Green Angels Landscaping - Office Assistant

Columbia, MD

January 2022 - Present

- Perform data entry tasks such as updating and maintaining mailing lists, and utilizing software programs such as Constant Contact to schedule appointments with clients
- Generate professional invoices and estimates for clients using computer programs such as Quickbooks and Joist, ensuring accuracy and timely delivery
- Maintain effective communication with clients, promptly addressing any questions or concerns to ensure their satisfaction

Bank of America Student Leader - Intern

Baltimore, MD

June 2023 - August 2023

- Selected as one of 300 student leaders nationwide (4 in the Baltimore market)
- Experienced serving local communities through a paid eight-week internship with nonprofits
- Gained insights into collaborative approaches and innovative strategies for addressing societal challenges at the intersection of public, private, and non-profit spheres through a week-long leadership summit in Washington DC

MIT Critical Data - Research Intern

Remote

July 2022 - July 2023

- Conducted cutting-edge research at the Laboratory for Computational Physiology, under the guidance of Professor Leo Anthony G Celi
- Investigated the effects of open versus private datasets on the diversity of healthcare researchers, utilizing advanced data analysis tools and data visualizations using Python and R
- Researched and compiled content for a course on Data Science for Disaster Prevention, to be published in the MIT Open Library

BlessingB Vintage Shop - Founder

Columbia, MD

August 2020 - January 2023

- Founded and operated an online vintage clothing shop specializing in late 90s and early 2000s brands.
- Conducted extensive product research and sourcing, implemented effective marketing strategies, and maintained exceptional customer service throughout the entire order fulfillment process
- Utilized fashion forecasting to stay ahead of market trends and consistently exceed sales targets. Earned over 265 sales and 100+ five-star reviews, with international shipping options available

General Catalyst - Venture Capital Intern

Remote

June 2022 - July 2022

- Explored how General Catalyst support founders by examining strategies encompassing mentorship, funding avenues, and strategic networking to facilitate innovation and drive lasting change
- Met with dozen startups founders in industries ranging from fintech to healthcare
- Performed a presentation to GC's executive leadership and management teams, where I pitched three potential fintech startups that GC should invest in

SKILLS

Languages : Fluency in French and Swahili

Technical Skills : Python, Java, R, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Comptia Network+ certification

Interests: Thrifting, Hair Braiding, African Dancing, Volunteering, Live Music