

First, this Mentorship Program is a medium to grow as an individual and learn from people who have gone ahead of me in my industry (specifically technology). I do not recall the names, but during the info session, a past mentee mentioned how their mentee helped them connect with others and provided them with opportunities to experience what "real work" looks like. It dawned on me that I have skills; I enjoy what I do, but how would I fit in the "real world"? Upon hearing about the mentee's experience, I was encouraged to join this year's cohort to learn how things work out there.

Also, I do not want to continue diminishing myself in the shadows. I want to explore new things, network with others and learn how to manage social situations in my job industry. Software development may look like an isolated job or, for the most part, a team effort. However, the product will not be used by nerds per se, but by people willing to buy into the value we may offer. I can learn more from this program's mentors on navigating issues such as the above.

Yes, I love what I do. I want to make a difference. However, one individual can make an immediate impact, but it takes people to make a lasting change. Since the Mentorship Program provides the environment to meet people who can help you make that lasting change, I want to be a part of it.