My main exposure to programming came from a six-month coding boot camp by Trilogy Education, hosted by the University of Washington. The boot camp immersed me in the world of web development and gave me a solid foundation on which to expand my programming abilities.

I am a very hands-on learner and I learn best from doing, so after the boot camp I dove head-on into building my own projects. One of my projects was a website that I built to sell my book collection. I named it Congo, after the second largest rainforest in the world, and used it to sell over 250 books. I also created a website called Outwork on which some friends and I could record our fitness workouts, track metrics, and compete for performance awards. So far it's been a fun and effective tool for us to use for tracking our efforts. Both projects, as well as a few others, are viewable on my portfolio which is listed on my resume.

The biggest and most recent development in my programming career is that I started working as a Front End Developer at a small start-up called WebDiff. I'm currently working with them part-time and am developing features for their website. I've learned a lot from having to familiarize myself with WebDiff's large codebase, participating in code reviews, and collaborating with other developers. I've also had to learn Redux, TypeScript, and Sass along the way. It's been a challenging but enjoyable experience so far.

My real-world engineering experience has given me a unique perspective that I can use to contribute to the LEAP program through classroom discussions, collaborating on team projects, and strategizing solutions for technical problems. I am very eager to learn and to take on challenging tasks. I will be a fully committed and active participant in the program for the betterment of myself and my peers.

The LEAP program will enable me to gain real-world programming experience, contribute to meaningful projects, and transition into a full-time Software Engineering position. The LEAP program will empower me to achieve more in my programming career. I know there is always more to learn and I'm ready to take the next big leap forward.