After spending years working in newsrooms I have seen first hand that the world is changing. The field of

I am applying for Codeup to reinvent myself and to open up a new world of employment possibilities. I want a career that challenges me and encourages constant growth. As an industry, technology, including software development seeks those who wish to create, innovate and produce meaningful work to serve the increasing demand for inventive concepts and solutions to problems. Though my work experience is not directly connected to technology, I do bring a skillset focused on communication, identifying audience needs and problem solving. My coding skills are largely self-taught; a majority of my free time has gone towards learning to code in HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Though I have learned much from my studies I am looking for professional guidance that can help me develop a stronger skill set, a portfolio and professional connections as I take a step into beginning a new career.

Codeup knows the value women bring to jobs in programming and tech. Currently, women comprise just 23% of software developers in the United States. We’re on a mission to change that statistic.

Why consider a career in software development? Here’s a handful of reasons: employers actively seek to hire female developers, diverse programming teams perform better than non-diverse teams, and jobs in programming offer high pay and more flexible schedules than in other industries. What’s more, coding gives you the amazing ability to create an app or website that actually makes a difference.

***250 words/1500 characters***

**What has motivated you to become a programmer, and why will you make a good programmer?\***

My interest in programming began with simple curiosity born of spending hours a day on the computer surfing the web, researching and reading articles. I stumbled across an article advertising a discounted learn to code bundle. Never being one to turn down a good deal, I paid $20 and began my journey to become a programmer. Working through some frustrating hours of learning the basics, I found myself enamored with coding. Though my previous work experience is not connected to programming, I do bring a skillset focused on communication, identifying audience needs and problem solving. The skills I do bring to the table are highly transferrable and will make me an excellent programmer. Much like writing for an audience, programmers work in teams to create software and other infrastructure that meets client’s specifications while also being usable by the general public. Instead of spending time revising and editing copy, I will be testing code and identifying and correcting any errors made. Creating and researching story ideas is similar to staying up to date on the latest programming languages and learning how to push my programming to the next level. The only thing that has matched the satisfaction I felt seeing my name in print is testing my code and seeing my creation turn out just how I wanted it. That feeling is what motivates me to become a programmer and drives me to take a chance on doing something different.

**What character traits do you have that you can contribute to the class success and your success as a programmer?\***

There is more to being successful programmer and student than knowing programming languages. I have the persistence, creativity, curiosity and team player mentality that will contribute to both the class’s success and my success as a programmer. Learning to code takes persistence especially when the outcome does not turn out the way you planned. Most of my coding skills are self-taught so I did not have an instructor or classmates to collaborate with. Instead of giving up I spent time figuring out where I went wrong and tried different methods to fix coding errors. Part of learning is failing, I believe I have the persistence to push through the frustration and keep going. Though programmers spend much of their days sitting in front of a computer they rarely work alone. Being a team player and working well with others is a must. Whether it’s working with a classmate or a client, it is vital to be able to interact with others and be able explain projects at any level of technical understanding, which my background in communication gives me. Curiosity is needed in an evolving field like programming. It’s important to always have an interest in the latest trends and be willing to continue learning long after graduating from Codeup. I enjoy programming because it is an art as well as a science and requires creativity and innovative thinking. My background in journalism has stoked my creativity leading me to take chances and take new approaches to solving problems.

**In a traditionally male dominated field, what benefits do you think women can bring to the class environment and technology field?\***

Technology has long been a male dominated field because girls from a young age are not being pushed to foster their interest in the field, which is something I have experienced first hand. While I was taught computer skills starting in elementary school there was very little ever done to promote technology as a viable career for women. Years later I have found my way into the technology field when it could have occurred years ago, not only for myself but also for women everywhere. The technology field sorely needs more qualified candidates to fill up the talent pool. Fulfilling the needs of the field and reaping the benefits starts with getting more women into the classroom. It is not a matter of women being better than men; it is how something simple as having more women could add to technology innovations and the classroom environment. Innovation and creative thinking are some of the driving forces of technology; no matter the field, there is much to be gained from bringing together different backgrounds and perspectives. Women are half of the users of technology and websites but only make up a small fraction of those working in the field or sitting in the classroom. A diverse workplace increases creativity, fresh ideas, problem solving and creates effective teams that get the job done. As more women enter the classroom and leave as developers, they take a step in breaking down barriers and shattering glass ceilings that have long plagued technology.

**What makes you the most deserving candidate for the scholarship?\***

I am on the verge of making a very big change in my life, which began when I applied to Codeup. I am a deserving candidate for the Women’s Scholarship because I have the drive and the passion to be a successful student and developer. Upon completion the program I seek to become a full stack web developer. Web development is not an easy job but I have never shied away from a challenge. I balanced working full time getting off of work at 9 p.m. and stayed up to the early morning hours learning how to code through videos and much trial and error. After dealing with an illness that caused me quit my job, I have turned my attention to learning to code full time. In my independent studies I have learned introductory levels of HTML, CSS and JavaScript. While I may have just scratched the surface of what I could learn, I am excited to see what else the instructors at Codeup can teach me and what I can create in a short time. Due to my loss of employment affording this program will be a challenge but not one I am unfamiliar with. While pursuing my bachelor’s degree I maintained part time employment and obtained scholarships to pay for my tuition. With that experience I know that a scholarship like this one will really make a difference in my life by allowing me to give my all while I am enrolled in the program.