John D. Bower

Web Developer

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Developer Experience

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Previous Work Experience

John D. Bower

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After leaving my career as a restaurant manager, I enrolled in the Python/Django proficiency course at The Iron Yard Durham. Throughout the course, I found that I looked forward to the challenge of having to teach myself the ins and outs of different assignments, finding that the core of the program was learning how and where to ask the correct questions.

As part of the program, I was assigned as the only back end developer in a team of three, to work on a website for users that want change careers. Our website, called Embark!, consisted of a series of REST API queries, taking user input to filter companies and job listings based on preferences. Utilizing agile development, working with front end developers and designers gave me a good idea of what kind of job environment I wanted to look for. After the three week period, we came up with a product we were all proud of, located at www.embarkproject.com

Following my graduation from N.C. State University, I was presented with the daunting task of finding a job. One of the first things I did was get a part time job at Outback Steakhouse, just as a way to make ends meet while I looked for other opportunities in the area. As my search continued, Outback offered me more and more promotions and upward progression. Eventually convincing me to accept a promotion as a salary manager, moving me down to Beaufort, SC.

Going through the prerequisites of taking over my own restaurant further down the road, I began to realize that my heart wasn't in restaurant management. Taking a look at other careers that I could pursue, I knew I wanted to work in a computer or technological environment. Doing research on the Iron Yard, I found that I enjoyed learning different programming languages, and decided that I would begin my journey towards finding a job in the web development world.