Hello everyone! My name is Kristofer Klae Mann and I am pursuing a degree in mobile development. I am 28 years old and live in Dallas, Texas. Currently I work at Target in the grocery department part-time. Previously I was working at a wholesale distribution center as a supervisor over shipping and receiving. I left that job because the owners of the company me told me to lie and hide certain equipment from an insurance inspector. Apparently we were not qualified to use this equipment, and I had no idea until they told me that day. I immediately quit and spent a month trying to figure out what to do next. I finally decided to become a programmer like my father.

I have taken college classes before, but have never had a career in mind as a goal. I honestly thought working at the distribution center was going to be my career, so when I quit I had to reevaluate my life's pursuit. I did get many job offers from other warehouses around the metroplex, but going back to school kept festering in my mind. My dad was a programmer for 26 years and loved every minute of it, so I decided to try and teach myself java. Although what I had learned was very basic, I too was loving every minute of it. In fact, the SDI class was probably the most fun I have had in a long time. With all that being said, my goal is to learn everything I can about programming and have a lifelong career that I love just as my father did.

The main challenge I see for this month is keeping up with assignments being due almost everyday. My work schedule is completely inconsistent and chaotic. There are times where I get off work at midnight and have to be back at 8 AM. When I have a shift like that, I end up not getting more than 4 hours of sleep because I can't immediately fall asleep when I get home. I end up taking a sleeping pill to force myself asleep and that usually takes an hour and half to kick in. Then I have to get up at 6:30 AM to make my lunch and get ready. By the time I get off work at 4:30 PM, I am completely exhausted and do not have any desire to do school. With the assignments due almost every day, I will have a shift like I just mentioned and will need to fight the exhaustion to complete what is due to the fullest extent.

The challenges I will encounter on my journey to dream fulfillment will mostly be that of social interaction. I have never been a people person. I have one friend I see once a month, a girlfriend I live with, and a couple of cats. Outside of work, that is my only interaction with other people. Please understand that I am completely happy the way my life is currently, but I know that becoming a lone wolf programmer is unrealistic. Although it may be hard, I will have to overcome my lack of desire to interact with other people.

The main desire I have for life is to enjoy it. I want nothing more than to have a career that I love, so that both my home and work life are equally enjoyable. I have had many jobs since I was 15 and never once could say I loved what I did. The SDI class confirmed my desire to become a programmer, and I believe to the fullest extent that this will be a career that I will love.

I honestly don't keep up with an inspirational person or quotes, but when I am faced with an obstacle there is something goofy that always comes to mind allowing me to push forward. "Challenge Accepted!" On the show How I Met Your Mother, a character named Barney Stinson played by Neil Patrick Harris always says that when he is in pursuit of an odd way to pick up a girl. Although his challenges and mine are never the same, the quote never fails to pop in my head and I end up finding a way to complete the difficult task at hand. I think that it relaxes me because it is funny, but then makes me determined to succeed.