Hi! My name is Lauren Lazzaro. I am an Executive Assistant and Customer Service Professional seeking a career transition to Web Development.

I became familiar with computers at an early age, thanks to my dad - who is in IT, so I have always been good at picking up on new computer programs. For example, when I started as the Executive Assistant of KidSmart, no one on staff knew how to use the database. There was no manual, and the organization wasn’t in a position to purchase training, so I taught myself through trial and error and online research. As I learned, I created Standard Operating Procedures, so anyone to come on board in the future would have a step-by-step tutorial, and I trained others to use the database as well.

I then took it upon myself to update the organization’s website. Again, no one on staff knew how to do this. The website was developed by a donor organization, who didn’t have time to make updates, so they created a username and password for me to log into their program. The first time I logged in, I was blown away! It was the first time I had ever seen code before. I read the code to the best of my ability, looking for items that needed to be updated. I made sure not to touch any of the code, and just updated the out-of-date information between opening and closing tags. But I was definitely intrigued by the code, so I spent some time trying to read it and figure it out! It was through this experience that I became interested in Web Development.

For my capstone project, I decided to create an Adventure Guide for kayakers, which I named “Kayak Fanatic”. Essentially, I want this application to be a complete guide to kayaking. It includes a kayak tracker, to track your journey and your average pace; float finders, with information about nearby lakes and rivers; a beginner’s guide to kayaking; packing lists; and a quiz that beginners can take to find the best kayaks to fit their adventure-style. I also plan to add a way for viewers to contribute their input - such as photos and reviews of different rivers/lakes, and a way to upload current conditions of rivers and lakes to inform other kayakers as they plan their next adventure.