Pablo Philipps - Junior Developer
pabloignaciophilipps@gmail.com
https://github.com/pablq

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

       I am new to CS / software development and I am loving it every bit of it. I've only been coding for just over a year, but it has already flipped my world on its head many times over.

       It took me some time to figure out what I wanted to do after college. At first, I focused on making traditional fine art but I was unsatisfied. I wanted more of an intellectual challenge. Finally, after some years of searching, I started to learn to code.

       I loved it immediately.

       In coding I found an outlet for my analytical mind and my artistic need for creation. Writing code felt natural. So, I decided to quit my service job and dedicate myself full-time to learning to code with some mentorship by a Saint Louis nonprofit called LaunchCode.

       A few months later, LaunchCode set me up with an interview at Fusion Marketing for an apprenticeship position. I was offered the position. I did well. And after some months Fusion brought me on as a full-fledged Junior Developer.

       My experience at Fusion was a whirlwind. I spent the first few weeks asking questions, reading a lot, and built my first website: a tool for internal company use. It was a success. After that I was thrown into the mix. I was given projects with outside clients and real deadlines. As I proved my ability to adapt to projects and learn new technologies, I was trusted with increasingly complex and important assignments.

       Of course, I made my share of mistakes, but I learned from them. I got a chance to work on many projects that were above my experience level. I learned how to interact positively with teammates and project managers. I learned how to deploy a product. I went from knowing absolutely nothing about development to knowing a solid something.

       I understand that I have a ton yet to learn, and I realize that my skills need time to mature. But I'm proud of how far I've come. More than that, though, I'm thankful for everyone that has helped me along the way.

LINKS:

LaunchCode Website (I'm one of the featured videos at the bottom):
       http://www.launchcode.org
My "Learner Story" on eDX:
       https://www.edx.org/blog/edx-launchcode-learner-story-pablo
President Obama talking about LaunchCode:
       http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4530637/lashana-lewis