Judy Nichols, CEO of Breakpoint Technology, gave a wonderful presentation. I frequently related to her experiences, and agreed with, to my surprise, all of her recommenedations. In my experience, speakers are also evangelists who usually only give suggestions that benefit themselves and the company they represent.

Judy’s suggestions went beyond what I usually hear from speakers. The suggestions included acquiring certifications, and to use pluralsight as a source of training for those certifications. I’ve been subscribed to and have been using pluralsight for 5 years now. She also talked about networking and resumes, including the use of LinkedIn and the fact that resumes in computer science have distinctly special formats. She was also very informant in the concept of looking for skillsets, not titles, when searching for a job, and the idea that there are more than just the basic four positions in a software development environment.

She spent a brief amount of time talking about her involvement in 4-H in Jefferson County, both as a member of the 4-H Executuve Council and as a leader for the Kids & K9’s 4-H Club. I related to this in that I was a 10 year member of the Shamrocks club and a 4 year member of the Junior Leaders club in Floyd County.

After all the suggestions Judy made, though I didn’t hear anything I hadn’t heard before in regards to career building and soft skills, I am very thankful for her presentation as I know my friends will benefit greatly.