LAURA MCGOWAN

Software Developer

mcgowancodes@gmail.com | github.com/prime-mcgowan | linkedin.com/in/lauraemcgowan | 763-443-0891

With fifteen plus years of public school teaching experience in the Osseo Area School District and Prime Digital Academy's intense immersion program mindset, I bring a blend of strong soft and technical skills. I am an effective communicator, I have high emotional intelligence, the must-have capability to be flexible, and an innate desire to be a passionate and consistent employee who can positively impact culture.

I am not afraid to ask questions or receive constructive feedback, looking to continuously improve upon my skill set. I am a developer who leans into clean design and architecture with an eye for detail and a focus on the end user experience. I want to be part of a software engineering team who works well together and pushes one another to be our best. I am not just seeking a job but rather a career, with a company/organization that I believe in and can put my all into.

LANGUAGES, LIBRARIES, FRAMEWORKS & TOOLS

- Javascript
- React
- Redux Sagas
- React Hooks
- HTML / JSX
- Axios / Ajax
- JQuery

- Node.js
- Express
- SQL
- Postgres
- Postico
- DBDesigner
- npm

- HTTP
- REST APIs
- Postman
- Bootstrap
- CSS
- Material UI
- Figjam

- Visual Studio Code
- Command Line
- Github
- Trello
- Google Suite
- Slack
- JSON

EDUCATION

Prime Digital Academy - Full Stack Software Engineer Certificate Program
Augsburg University - B.A. Secondary Education, 7-12 Social Studies License
St. Catherine University - STEM Educator Certificate

EXPERIENCE

FULL STACK SOFTWARE ENGINEER STUDENT | PRIME DIGITAL ACADEMY | 10/22 - 3/23

SOLO PROJECT: ACTION COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN IN PRISON

The Action Committee for Women in Prison (ACWIP) advocates for the humane and compassionate treatment of incarcerated women; specifically focusing on incarcerated mothers..

The ACWIP's website is very cluttered, confusing and difficult to navigate through. With their website being in this state, they run the risk of someone who is looking for more information or worse yet, someone who wants to actually get involved, clicking away from ACWIP's site to find another site/organization that they can more easily interact with.

In order to clearly communicate with the user and capture their attention I designed and engineered the following:

- A clean homepage with quick links to information about the organization, the work that they do and how to become a volunteer
- Linked pages with clear and easily digestible content
- A built-out volunteer portal that allows people to quickly register to become a volunteer and immediately get involved with the organization

I used the following technologies:
React, Redux-Saga, JavaScript, HTML/JSX, Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, Passport, Bootstrap, and CSS

CLIENT PROJECT: REPLI

Our client, Taylor, came to us with an all too common problem while planning a wedding - he and his fiance had gotten bogged down with the heavy and bloated big name wedding websites and apps. They were looking for a way to cut through some of the wedding prep noise when it came to RSVP-ing for their big day!!

The app needed to allow a couple to quickly and easily set up RSVP-ing to their wedding AND give guests the ability to do so with just a few taps on their phone.

- The application needed to be **lightweight, clean and straightforward**. Couples using the app would be looking to get away from all the distractions and endless wedding add-on options they are met with on other platforms.

- The application also need to be **accessible, completed in just a few quick steps and very user friendly**. Wedding guests using this app are looking to easily engage in the RSVP-ing process. The app needed to cater to the most tech savvy AND more importantly, the least tech savvy guest on the list, as well.

With all those things in mind, we made Taylor's solution and vision come to life with...REPLI.

- In three steps, couples are able to create their event, input their guest list and detail the menu options
- Guests can quickly move through the three steps it takes to RSVP: checking if they can attend or not, choosing their meal option and inputting their communication preferences to receive updates and reminders from the couple
- All steps for both the couple and guests are easily editable
- Clean pages and clear inputs allow for easy navigation and understanding

We used the following technologies:
React, Redux-Saga, JavaScript, HTML/JSX, Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, Passport and Material UI

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER | BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL | BROOKLYN PARK, MN | 2011 - 2022

- Designed effective and **original lesson plans** that allowed for student interaction, creativity, movement and buy-in
- Maintained strong classroom management that motivated students to be at their best
- Pushed students to excel in writing and public speaking through rigorous themed role plays, participation in Model United Nations and the **creation of their very own non-profit agency**
- Created a safe academic and social environment that fostered a sense of belonging and community
- Embedded the use of multiple technologies in my classroom - including **coding with Ozobots and Micro:bits**
- Communicated with families regularly to keep them informed about activities in class which allowed families to knowledgeably converse with their student
- **Early implementer** of ipads, Chromebooks and our content management system, Schoology
- Partnered with administration and department leaders to acquire funds, materials and support for multiple hands-on activities and full grade events
- Enhanced curriculum with **Google Hyperdocs, Nearpod, EdPuzzle, Quizlet and Flipgrid**
- Surveyed students to **gather data** after major units and projects to ensure continual improvement
- 2013-2014 VFW 7th District Teacher of the Year Grade 6-8