

## Rowena Jaico

**“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”-Benjamin Franklin.**

This is one of Rowena's favorite quotes that keeps her motivated, both in her professional and personal life. After graduating high school, Rowena decided to do what every person thinks they are supposed to do and attended college. She decided to start by declaring a Graphic Design major, then switched over to Computer Information Systems, followed by Nursing. She always had a craving for knowledge, but didn't quite find what it was she was looking for until deciding to take a break from traditional college.

Rowena did not want to stop her momentum of learning, but decided to go a completely different direction. She enrolled herself into Cosmetology school in 2003, and has been part of the industry since. Rowena has taken on many different roles during her Cosmetology career. She started off assisting other stylists, trying to learn the best practices in order to deliver the best service. She then became a stylist herself and wanted to be able to inspire others, the way her mentors have inspired her. She consistently searched and partook in advanced classes, both technical and motivational. Working on stage, working in the salon behind a chair, eventually, Rowena decided to go back to school to get her teachers license in Cosmetology so she could teach and inspire students early in their career the way others have for her.

As a Cosmetology and Aesthetics Educator, Rowena was one of two asked to write the curriculum and lessons plans for the two programs. This was not the last time she would be in charge of large projects. Anytime she was working in a salon, Rowena was always promoted to take on leadership roles, which brings us to present day as a Senior Stylist and Manager of a high-end, high-traffic salon.

With all of her past experiences, Rowena has strengthened her communication skills as well as mentoring skills, in order to make the best decisions for her current company. She has developed strong time management as well as organizational skills. Being the main point of communication when there is any issues, she has become a large problem solver. Beyond providing excellent customer service, she is also in charge of designing all print and email marketing material, as well as her company's website and social media content. This led her to her interest in web design, which in turn led to her interest in web development. As Rowena feels she has reached all of her professional goals in Cosmetology, she felt it was the best time to take the leap and start a new journey toward becoming a Web Developer.

After much research and enrolling herself into free online coding courses, Rowena realized she wanted to learn much more and surround herself by like-minded individuals. She found the Rutgers University Coding Bootcamp online and decided she needed to be part of it.

Within the first two classes, Rowena learned basic HTML and CSS and realized she made the right decision to explore full stack web development. She continues the free courses online to strengthen what she is learning in class. She believes one day all of the hard work and all of the past skills she has acquired will lead to a successful, stable, happy, meaningful life.