For all of my life, technology has fascinated me. This captivation often led me to tinker with the appliances around the house. Much to my Fathers chagrin, it was usually his computer that I took apart, and fiddled with in an effort to make Windows 95 “better”. Although my Father was usually upset that I “fixed” the computers, he still encouraged me to learn more about computers, by going to the library and when I was 11, taking a summer workshop at the local Vocational School to learn about robots, Photoshop, and how to solder.

After I graduated high school it made sense to continue to pursue my interests and learn about the inner aspects of computers in greater detail so I applied for the A.A.S. degree program at Raritan Valley Community College. This program allowed me to take different types of computer classes and to hone in on what area I wanted to focus. Eventually, I decided on Web Development. I found it astounding that you could take a blank html page and create something simple like a one-page restaurant landing website or something as powerful as Wikipedia!

During my studies at RVCC, I was able to spend a month abroad in Italy, travelling and making full use of my one semester of Italian. Throughout the trip, I was able to learn much more about Italian culture. I learned how many types of pasta there are. I developed a love for the beauty of architecture, art, and photography. Also, I learned there was a lack of flawless English-Italian translation software.

At RVCC, I was the recipient of the *Galileo Scholarship*. This scholarship is awarded to RVCC students majoring in science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science. I was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the Delta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma (Computer Science Honor Society). While in school I was hired for a six-month internship at HCS Technology. This was an amazing opportunity and where I learned the ins and outs of client billing and of managing the logistics of a small office. Shortly after my internship ended I began working for Aéropostale.

Upon graduating RVCC with honors in 2013, I transferred to another store closer to home, to continue my goal of becoming a manager. In my tenure with the company, I’ve been very fortunate to have amazing store managers who’ve helped guide me to become a better person, employee, and manager. I’ve learned that I love training new hires, encouraging sales associates to hit their goals, and offering feedback on ways to improve their selling efforts. I also learned how to handle customer complains in a manner where both parties are happy with the outcome. Though I’ve excelled and grown at Aéropostale, I recognized that I was not working in my field and continued to look for new opportunities to learn.

Recently, a friend who is a Rutgers Alumni forwarded me an email that he had received about the Coding Boot Camp that is being offered by Rutgers University. After assessing it, and consulting my Father who’s been in the IT field for many years, I realized that this course would be a perfect way for me to gain the skills necessary to continue pursuing my interests in technology.