I became interested in programming while in high school through the development of Android applications in my free time. A few of these applications became popular and, after seeing these applications, I was asked by my computer science teacher and superintendent to establish an Android development course for the high schools of that district, helping to fulfill a gap in the STEM curricula and raise more interest in computer science. I developed this course for the Garland Independent School District in the summer between graduating high school and entering college. Each computer science teacher from the high schools of the district adopted the course as a new class students could take.

After receiving positive feedback on the course, I wanted to make it available beyond my school district so I developed a free website for learning Android development. The response was incredible, with thousands of people taking the course across 174 countries. Many of these people reached out to me about their experience with the course and I learned that some people started developing apps as a hobby, some changed their major and some even began a career transition. Seeing how programming can make such an impact in people’s lives cemented this as what I want to do for life.