**Janita**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Her Story:**

I am looking forward to learning new skills and joining a field that is projected to provide one of the most important career paths of the future. I hope to gain proficiency with tools such as Tableau, Power BI, and SQL so that I am prepared to analyze data in a way that can help businesses thrive. I am also hoping to learn best practices for analysis and data visualization. Moreover, I am looking forward to forming relationships with my new colleagues and being a part of a network of women in technology.

I believe that being accepted into this program offers me a fresh start. Having already attained advanced degrees that yielded nothing more than astronomical student loan debt and jobs that offer salaries that barely pay the bills, I think that by making this career change I will be able to provide for my family in a way that feels more like thriving and less like surviving.  Consequently, my children will benefit from this experience both financially and educationally. The salaries in this field are higher than what is offered in the field that I have degrees in. We have lived in poverty and even with advanced degrees we still haven’t been able to totally transcend poverty. I believe that this program will provide me with the tools to help me guide my children onto the path of careers in technology. Because my children are old enough to understand, I will be able to share with them things that I learn in the course; essentially putting them ahead of the curve.

I specifically chose the data analytics program for three reasons: my research background, the growing demand for data analyst and my understanding of how I could use this skill to help others. As a researcher I have developed research questions, collected data, analyzed it, and presented my findings. Furthermore, when I was a doctoral candidate, one of my responsibilities as a teaching assistant was to teach a research methods course. Data analytics seemed like a good fit for me. When I learned of the growing demand for data analyst, I knew that the vastness of this field provided space for growth and a variety of possibilities. As a single parent making sure that your family feels secure is almost as important as breathing. Knowing that I will have skills that are in demand and that I will always have a way to provide for my children is a great feeling.  I also saw this as an opportunity to help executives that rely on data to make key decisions. Whether it is an executive at a nonprofit organization that seeks to do charitable work or an executive that has invested their time into expanding a company and growing a brand. It is exciting to think that at the end of the workday I can walk away feeling fulfilled because the analysis that I provided could have potentially helped someone.

As someone that holds a PhD, I have watched the decline of academia and came to the realization that the majority of the job opportunities were adjunct roles. Adjuncts make very little money and do not receive health benefits. This awareness was incredibly disheartening considering that I am responsible for repaying thousands of dollars in student loans while taking care of a family. I saw this program as my chance to pivot rather than rest on my laurels. These new skills could change the trajectory of my life.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:** Dekalb County Court

**Job Title:** Clerk

**Work Experience**: Data Analyst and Data Scientist

**Other Skills:** MS Word; MS Excel; MS PowerPoint; Outlook; Teams

**College Degree:** Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, Master of Nonprofit Management, and Bachelor of Science in Sociology

**Education**:

Political Science

General computer course at Nashville State Community College.

**Annual Income:** $23 (hourly)

**Open to Relocation? Where?** Yes, I am open to relocation in Texas (Dallas, Austin, or Houston) and I am also open to international relocation. My overall preference is 100% remote.

**Observation characteristics from Emory (Outgoing, Quiet/Shy, Leader, Team Contributor, etc.)**

* She is a leader, very intelligent, and has great communication and presentation skills. She doesn't get engaged in the class as much as she should.
* To get prepared for her team presentation she requested a special help session from her instructor on a Sunday that we approved. If you want something bad enough this is the way to do it.

**Competencies: (Interpersonal Skills, Cooperation and Collaboration, Time Management & Administration, Leadership, Communication Skills, Strategic Thinker, etc.)**

* Emory Academic Proficiency Rating: Advanced