Kelli

Gwinnett County, GA

**Her Story:**

I am thrilled to have completed the Women in Technology Cybersecurity training through Emory University. Here is a little about my story and how life-changing this opportunity is for me.

I feel I am starting life all over. After being a stay-at-home mom for eight years, I am now divorced with two boys age six and eight. My home life has completely shifted. My boys have a new life of going back and forth between homes. I am looking for full-time employment. We are juggling schedules and new daily routines.

My career options feel so limited. I want to have a great paying career in order to live without worry of bills. I want to be an example of a strong and successful mother for my children. I want to be able to say yes to the things that my boys want and need without thinking about money. Participating in sports and clubs and provide a life that is enjoyable to them so that they are well-rounded. I think it is important to have choices throughout life so that they can learn what they like.

I have been looking for a job and realize I do not qualify for many jobs based on lack of experience and skills. The jobs that I do qualify for do not pay well. I feel stuck and do not want to settle for a job that I don’t like or one that just pays the bills leaving me to live paycheck to paycheck.

I am so glad I was selected for many reasons. First of all, I am a diligent student. I was valedictorian of my high school class and having goals is an important value to me. I am a trained teacher. I love learning. I would honor the opportunity to work with Emory University and the IT partners. I am highly motivated to succeed. I see this program as exactly what I need to go into a new career path fully prepared. I have completed the class with a 98.6% average.

My career goals are to maximize my potential. I want a career that I have find interesting, challenging, and rewarding. I see myself using my leadership qualities for a team in a positive way. I am a trained teacher and taught Spanish for 14 years. I believe an IT job that involves training or sales would be a great fit for me. I enjoy talking with people.

This opportunity gives me so much hope for a future that I can support myself and my children financially. I am looking forward to applying my new skills to keep myself sharp and continue to better myself. I think it is important for my children to see that learning never ceases.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:** Onelife Fitness- Yoga Instructor

**Work Experience**: I worked as a public-school teacher for 14 years. I am familiar with Word and creating PowerPoint presentations. My gradebook and attendance were always computer programs. As a teacher, I had to maintain a webpage for students to get assignments and link websites for homework. I am comfortable with Zoom.  I've worked at yoga studios and needed to learn software for attendance.  I use social media and email. I have more than basic computer skills.

**College Degree:** BA, The University of Iowa

**Education**: Double Major in Spanish and Education

**Annual Income**- $4,646

**Observation characteristics from WIT, Emory, Other Providers and Mentors (Outgoing, Quiet/Shy, Leader, Team Contributor, etc.)**

Showed grace and persistence and ultimately succeeded. Was very dedicated to attending lab help sessions and always reached out for assistance.

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

Persistant

Intuitive