LaKara

Clayton County, GA

**Her Story:**

My name is LaKara. I have one child, Peyton, she is my love muffin. Peyton came into this world on her own terms, at 28 weeks. She was born premature and had to stay in the hospital for 2.5 months. That situation took a toll on my body, because like any mother I was up there everyday (most days by myself) immediately after having a cesarean. Peyton also has sickle cell anemia, which weakens the immune system. I decided that because she was so young and fragile in this germy world, I would stay home with her instead of sending her to childcare. The doctors expressed that she would have to take an antibiotic everyday until she is 5 to reduce the chances of an infection that may cause a fatality. So, homeschool it is, I guess, until 5. I have made many sacrifices in this life for other people but none of those sacrifices will ever top the ones that I have done for her. I might be done bragging about her so on to me. I want to participate in this amazing program because I want to show Peyton that through life you have trials, but you must have perseverance. Before the pandemic, I enrolled into a program for IT. Then the pandemic happened and no one knew how to fully function. We continued the class virtually, but that would mean that I would have a needy 2 year old all over me during class. I was able to complete the class while being rewarded as the valedictorian of the class. I was proud of myself, it was rough. Still in a pandemic, I managed the full time mom position because ultimately the world completely stopped. Once the world started to slowly open, I applied for Delta. I have always wanted to work for this company, but the position that I was hired for is to serve as a stepping stone to get into IT for Delta. I want to participate in this program because I do believe that I will learn and also be able to apply what I learned into the world of Tech. Being a woman of color, we do not have much representation or opportunity. Participating in the program will give me an edge to get in and be successful. After going through WIT I want to be able to confidently build my career in cyber security. I want to be a role model for my baby, a little girl next door, or a little girl I run into at the airport. My ideal career will allow me to work remotely, so that I can enjoy my love, Peyton and give me the financial stability to break generational curses. I want something that will challenge my mind but also give me something different, like a Penetration Analyst . Being rewarded this opportunity will get me one step closer to the pursuit of LaKara.

**For reference**

**Company Name:** Delta, Seasonal Customer Service

**Work Experience**:

Customer Service

Data Analyst (non IT) ( 10+)

Lab Technician

Microbiologist

**College Degree:** Yes

Albany State University, 2004-2009, Bachelor’s Degree, Biology

**Education**:

Bachelor’s Degree, Biology

Per Scholas, Comptia A+ Cert, IT

**Annual Income:** $12,243

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

* Always enthusiastic
* Leader -  Always willing to help others
* Provides great insight and relevant information in discussions
* Team Contributor

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

* Emory Academic Proficiency Rating: Advanced
* Very Engaging
* Collaborates in class
* Timely work submissions
* Efficient
* Strong Leader