Sierra

Henry County, GA

**Her Story:**

My name is Sierra. I attended the University of West Georgia and received my bachelor’s degree in Political Science. During my time in college, I did a couple of internships, my most recent one being with Regina Lewis-Ward. The campaign was a success, and she became the House State Representative of Georgia for her district. After my time on that campaign, I landed a job at a law firm as a Legal Assistant; I gained a lot of law knowledge, specifically about Immigration Law. As time progressed, I realized though I learned a lot from my education and work experience, that was no longer my passion. I felt lost and discouraged because what I spent four years studying was no longer my passion. I researched and came across some information about the need for women and minorities in tech. I instantly became interested, and remembered my friend, Nykera, took a couple of programs and was in the technology world, so I reached out to her; she let me know about the WIT program and how it has changed her and her son's life. Once she let me know it was a program for single mothers, I jumped at the chance.

My reservations about going back to school were because I have a three-year-old son, MJ, as a new mother, I only trust a few people around him. I never intended to raise a child on my own. I had a two-parent household, and I expected my son to experience the same, but that was not the case. I have struggled with postpartum, betrayal, and anxiety during my most vulnerable time. A penalty of times, I felt like I was alone. I realized I have strong support from my family and the father of my sons' family, but it is nothing like a present father. I hope and pray that one day my son can experience that.

My son is my reason for living. I have to make sure he is always safe. My mother looked after him while I was taking classes at UWG, but now that I have graduated, I didn’t want to constantly ask others to watch him. I want him to know that it is never too late to do what you want in life. My career goals consist of: owning a recreational center in an underprivileged community and teaching women, men, and children about interview etiquette, professionalism, and the technology industry. If awarded this opportunity, it would mean the world to me. It will show me that I can do anything I set my mind to and that all of my hard work and determination went unnoticed. It will set an example for my son showing him that hard work can get you far in life.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:  Unemployed**

**Work Experience**:

Customer Service Representative

Legal Assistant

**College Degree:** Yes

**Education**: BA, Political Science, University of West Georgia

Year Up Program, Intro to Computer Applications, Computer Network, Support Scripting Languages, Cyber Security, Public Speaking

Familiarity w/ 100 Devs, Code Academy, Python

**Annual Income:** $27,000

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

* Leader -  Always willing to help others
* Provides great insight and relevant information in discussions
* Team Contributor - active in small group discussions
* Very eager to learn and understand the material, attends lab help sessions for further assistance

**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
* Strong Leader