**Vanessa**

**Lexington, SC**

**Her Story:**

Over the years, I held various roles in construction project management and operations, collaborating with diverse teams of individuals to accomplish project and organizational objectives, formulating strategies, improving performance, procuring material and resources, and securing compliance. Occasionally I helped the Information Technology staff with tasks such as setting up user profiles, installing software programs on laptops and tablets, updating company websites, and troubleshooting issues. Performing IT tasks and discovering more about the industry, in conjunction with my passion for continued learning and overcoming challenges, fueled my desire to work in information technology. However, it wasn't until my current employer encountered a ransomware attack that my interest was sparked by cybersecurity, leading to my commitment to WIT’s Career ConneXions Cybersecurity program.

I signed up for WIT’s cybersecurity program with the hope of gaining insight into innovative ways to secure and defend computer operating systems, networks, and data, utilizing different cybersecurity principles, methods, and tools. To acquire the skills to develop safeguards and disaster recovery plans to support organizational security efforts. As well as enhance user adoption of security-aware behaviors to help individuals protect themselves and the organizations they work for from cyber-attacks.

Acceptance into the WIT Career ConneXions Cybersecurity program provides me the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill my interest and desire to work in the technology industry. It helps me be a role model to my daughter and prove to her that entering the tech industry as a woman can be accomplished with the right tools, mindset, and support. It further reinforces the goals my family and I have set for our future.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:** Landmark Builders

**Job Title:** Accounts Payable Specialist

**Work Experience**:

* Accounts payable specialist, Project Coordinator, Operations Manager, Project Manager
* Employment achievements: Supported the growth of a small drywall firm and nearly doubled their profit in 2 years, developed a new masonry division for a parent company, learned new roles/industries in less time than was expected of me, and capable of thriving in sink or swim situations.

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

**College Degree:** Yes, Bachelors

Major: Business Administration

**Education**: Southern New Hampshire University

* Educational achievements/certifications: Graduated Summa Cum Laude, acquired a Certificate in Project Management from Regis University, an Introduction to Coding Certificate of Achievement, and a GRC Analyst Master Class Certificate of Completion.
* business computer courses

**Annual Income:** $45,000

**Open to Relocation? Where?** NA

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

* 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