

Professional Statement

My name is Reginald Kelley and I am a junior majoring in computer science and mathematics at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Computer Science is a great field that I have started to enjoy being a part of. Learning new programming languages is something that I find very intriguing. Computer science is a career field with a wide variety of options to choose from. Over the summer of 2016 I attended a transportation program at Elizabeth City State University that also had a focus on computer science. During this portion of the program we were shown how programming could operate different devices, including a drone. After the program was completed, I began researching the computer science field and sought input from family members who knew about this area. From the information that I gathered, choosing computer science as my major was the most logical choice for me.

To aid me and help push me further throughout my journey through college, I applied to, and was accepted into, the Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing Education and Research (CERSER) program, overseen by Dr. Linda B. Hayden. The CERSER program is a research program that also pushes its members to further their experience by gaining internships, and also furthering their education by encouraging them to enter their graduate studies. With the aid of this program I will pursue my degrees, learn all the tools, and gain the experience needed to obtain a career in the computer science field.

The spring semester of 2017 was when CERSER started conducting research projects. Each student in the program was assigned a mentor, my mentor was Edward Swindell. Our research dealt with unmanned aerial systems

The summer of 2017 I attended Science Gateways' Community Institute four week coding internship, where my coding skills were enhanced and I learned how to configure computers. Here the skills navigating a terminal and learning all of its commands were also taught to me. There were also a few coding languages taught to me, including R and Python.

Also in the summer of 2017 I attended Practice and Experience in Advanced Research Computing '17. "Sustainability, Success, and Impact" was the theme of the conference. Sustainability of infrastructure environment, measuring and ensuring success for organizations that provide and use advanced research computing, and impact of the technologies on the workforce and on science and scholarship, were all key issues that supported this theme. This was a great experience because it showed me the vast coding world and taught me how to apply what I've learned. I was also able to present my research at this conference.

Over the fall semester of 2017 CERSER has allowed me to participate in two conferences. My first conference trip was to Morgan State University in for the National Technical Association Conference (NTA), in Baltimore Maryland. It was a very great experience, meeting legends is an amazing thing to do during your lifetime. Presenting at NTA was a new experience for me. After NTA I presented at the Science Gateways Conference in Ann Arbor Michigan.

I plan to continue my education at ECSU and graduate with my bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics and move forward to receive my master's degree in

both fields. Along the way I plan on receiving internship opportunities to excel my skills in my desired fields.