

Your name: Brianna Alston

Your institution: Mississippi Valley State University

Please insert a photo of yourself (preferably in action during your internship, but not required)

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself, including what you are studying.

I am a rising junior who is studying mathematics and criminal justice. I also play softball for my school, so typically when I don't have class or schoolwork, that's where I am. As of right now, I am searching for a career I want to pursue however, I am researching becoming a forensic accountant.

2. Where did your internship take place, and who did you work with?

I was lucky to be a part of the SGCI Coding Institute which was online this year due to COVID. I got to work with 11 other peers, many mentors, and the people in charge were Dr. Linda Hayden, Miss. LaAndrea Gates, Mr. Jeff Wood, and Mr. Joal Hathaway. We got tutorials from so many great people who are passionate about what they do, which made me even more excited to learn.

3. What are some things that you learned as a result of this internship?

As a result of this internship, I learned so much more than just coding, but most everything I learned was completely new to me so this experience opened my eyes to a whole new world of computing and gateways. For example, I learned that many people who do coding didn't study computer science, one person that really stood out to me was an astrology major who is now coding about astrology. However, I did learn about supercomputing and it was interesting to hear about how big the machines are, how many different small machines it takes to build it, how fast it runs, and how they keep it functioning. I also spent a couple of days learning how to use Jupyter Notebook. Then, I used Github and HTML on Python, which I learned and then actually used for the project at the end. Finally, I learned about the code of ethics, which I had heard of some of it before, but the training taught me that there is much more to it and before, I didn't know that people had mentors.

4. Do you see yourself engaging with SGCI again in the future? Perhaps when you begin your career?

I do see myself engaging with SGCI again in the future whenever I get into my career because if there's anything I took from this, it's that so many people use code even some people who don't ever think they will. In addition, I liked this internship because I got to meet people from a wide range of majors, not just computer science. Plus, this internship teaches you what it's like to compute in real life, it's nothing like what I learned in school.

5. Anything else to add about your internship experience?

I loved the experience, however there were many powerpoints to listen to, which is hard to follow when you don't know much about coding, so they did lose me at times and I

didn't want to get them off schedule by asking. I would recommend adding more hands-on stuff because I know that is very helpful for most people to learn.