

Daniel Lamb

Professional Statement

I am an incoming freshman at Elizabeth City State University, I am majoring in computer science. Ever since I was a kid, my father has always tried to show me and teach me the knowledge that he has acquired throughout his life. Before he retired, he was a computer technician. So, whether he was helping me solve a problem as I was doing homework or he was explaining something so that I could help another family member, he always thought to show me something extra. I think this could be one of the influences that inspired me to pursue my career in computer science. All four years in high school, I took a series of courses under the Project Lead the Way program. That program included multiple sections where we would have had to do things on the computer that really introduced us to the basics of coding and other computer systems. During this, we attempted to program the motors of structures that we had to build. We programmed things like line followers, motors and lights. I also participated in a summer program at Elizabeth City State University where introductory coding was involved. I often found myself in programs and conversations where the field of computer science sounded like that was my interest. I think these things greatly influenced my decision to pursue this career. When it was time for me to choose my major, I knew that this was what I would want to major in.

Currently, I am involved in the Science Gateway Community Institute. This is where I was introduced and began training in programs such as Unix shell, Python, GitHub and Hubzero. I also learned about how High Performance Computing systems are used to solve science, engineering and mathematical problems at a much higher speed than a regular desktop computer. The SGCI program expanded my interest in the field of computer science and helped clarify that I wanted to further study in this field. It also provided me with knowledge that I can implement into the classroom or on the job. Ultimately, I think this experience helped me to get a head start in my studies. When I do approach these programs at a later date, I will have some knowledge that will advance me ahead of my peers.

This year I will be participating in the Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing Education and Research (CERSER) program at my school. CERSER's main focus is to develop and

implement innovative and relevant education and research collaborations to study and analyze ice sheets, coastal, ocean, and marine research. I seek to learn how one can examine these environments through Cyberinfrastructure. Hopefully, I will discover an interest while working with the program and develop an insight towards what I would like to do with my career.

For now, my main goal is to acquire my undergraduate degree. Being an incoming freshman, I have not been exposed to much of the computer science field yet. In the near future, I hope to discover my interests and prepare for the workforce or enroll into a graduate program at a university.