Cesar Monsalud III – Professional Statement

My name is Cesar Monsalud, and I am a rising junior at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, majoring in computer science. My interest in computer science started when I was in middle school, where I joined the local robotics team. I really liked building the robot, but programming the robot's code was what I was most passionate about. I continued my robotics career throughout high school and into college, where I would travel all across the state to compete. Just recently I had joined the Science Gateway Coding Institute, which is the first time in my life where I got to focus just on programming, which greatly improved my computer science skills.

At my local community college, I had taken a lot of leadership roles, such as the lead of the robotics team and the president of the math club. While I was in those leadership positions, it helped me realize that I was not only passionate about computer science, but with interacting with other people. I loved it when I could help others. It felt fulfilling when someone would teach me new concepts, and I could pass on those concepts to other people. That's why when I get my computer science degree, I plan on going into teaching and becoming a college professor, where I can spread my joy of programming.

With the Science Gateway Coding Institute, I have learned so many things. I am now very confident in my skills to code in Python, operate a terminal, design a webpage and set up

it's infrastructure. Also, just by being with other people, I have a working understanding of how to use things such as Flask and Ngrok.

I look forward to getting my Master's of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and getting some experience in the field before going back to get my PHD. Afterwards, I plan on going back to college, this time not as a student but as a professor, teaching the next generation of computer scientists.