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SGCI Experience

I have gained many experiences and developed many skills participating in The NSF Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI). When I first heard about this program from the dean of computer science in my home school, I was highly interested in applying. I was happy that I was accepted. We first started the week learning UNIX. Learning UNIX was very important because it was a commonly used operating system in the cybersecurity field. I was first introduced to UNIX in my sophomore year, but I wanted to gain more hands-on experience outside the classroom. I was very excited to learn the information again the first week of the program. I had the chance to refresh my memory and practice different exercises. We had to do a quiz based on the information we read, which I enjoyed because it was in a game format that made learning fun and effective to remember the questions that I got wrong. We watched Youtube videos as well which was a great summary of what UNIX is and some key concepts about it.

In the following week, we focused on HTML. I had previous knowledge about HTML and CSS skills based on my previous internships. Although, I had the chance to focus more on HTML and CSS in this program which allowed me to master my proficiency on it, especially with the different exercises that were implemented by CodeAcademy. HTML and CSS is important to know when it comes to making web development. I had a high interest in UX Design when I enrolled into Netflix UX Design Bootcamp last year. I was very interested in learning more about HTML and practicing it. I was able to learn more things in detail that I did not learn before. CodeAcademy covered everything and was a great tool for students who were beginners. I was able to learn how to insert images and modify them in different ways into my likening. I would definitely apply what I have learned when I am implementing the research I have done into a website. We had a whole week to practice on HTML and had the chance to work into groups.

We then move on to learning Python. Learning python was challenging because I do not have background knowledge and experience with it. We still use CodeAcademy to learn this programming language. Same thing with HTML, it covers the main contents in detail and includes different exercises. Besides learning different programming languages and softwares, we had the chance to speak to different guests who have different expertise in computer science. Networking is a big deal in computer science because that is where we develop connections and gain information about the field that we are trying to achieve. We then were assigned to do Code of Ethics Certification which includes professional principles which are vital to know. The Voltron Conference held virtually on the third week was very engaging and challenging for students, but was a great learning experience. They also provided Youtube links, which I watched since I did not participate during the time that it was held. I still learn many insights about what happened in the conference and my takeaways from it. We were also tasked to sign up for Science Gateway Young Professional Network to keep communication and future opportunities along with LinkedIn which is a great networking website.

The last week of the program, we had to work with our groups to complete exercises using Python. I practice more on my problem and solving and communication skills while working with my group members. I am not that proficient with Python but working with my group members allowed me to learn and understand the code we had to implement.

This program has helped me in many ways and helped me with my interpersonal skills. I also gained confidence with my communication skills as I was more comfortable asking questions to my mentors. They have helped me in any way. Dr.Haiden and Josselyn not only provided guidance but provided us with helpful information that will help us in the future. We were informed about different opportunities to gain more experiences even after this program. I was looking for a program that will help me with programming languages and help me enhance my skills even more. This program went beyond what I expected. We were given a schedule of what we were doing each day. Our main communication methods were Discord and Zoom. I am impressed by how organized the program is. I will continue to apply what I have learned in this program with my internships and education. I will use the resources that were introduced to me to continue to learn and become better in programming. I will also look into the opportunities that were mentioned in the meeting calls. I am forever grateful to The NSF Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI) for this opportunity. Thank you for the continuous support and motivation towards aspiring students. The program was four weeks long and went by so quickly. I definitely recommend this program to students.