

My name is Disaiah Bennett, I am a junior at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) located in Elizabeth City, North Carolina with a major in computer science and minor in mathematics. My passion for utilizing computers matured during high school. My interest in analyzing data and programming, I selected a scientific concentration within computer science. I plan on achieving a bachelor's degree at ECSU and later continuing to pursue an education at a graduate level to obtain my Master's Degree in Data Analytics.

During my sophomore year, I was awarded the Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing Education and Research (CERSER) scholarship. With the help of CERSER, research opportunities are presented along with academic activities, to assist in the development of the students. CERSER has provided me with training in programming languages such as Python and HTML, and instructed me on how to utilize Adobe Dreamweaver and Photoshop. Due to the funding providing my research to national conferences, I was able to present research that was assigned to me by CERSER and gained through a previous internship.

My first research experience was with CERSER in the spring of 2017. Assigned to the web development team, the focus was to integrate Bootstrap components to enhance the interactivity of the Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI) Young Professional site. With the utilization of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, the team was able to deduce that Bootstrap themes were not compatible with the WordPress themes incorporated by SGCI. Therefore, by applying two WordPress widgets, Soliloquy and Image Hover Effects Pro, and applying PowerPoint and Photoshop, the responsiveness of the site was obtained.

During the summer of 2017, I attended Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington, Indiana. I was accepted into the Summer Research Opportunities in Computing (SROC) program, under the mentor Dr. Xiaofeng Wang, the Director of Center for Security Informatics. The research objective was to construct and initialize a return-oriented programming (ROP) attack. Executing this malware, the user would bypass Intel's Software Guard Extension (SGX) and retrieve data. By working on this project independently, I utilized resources such as CodeBlocks, Cygwin: Shell Programming, PowerPoint, and programmed in C. After testing the attack, the code was intercepted by the kernel; therefore, the research was halted for further analysis.

As a junior, my latest research was conducted during the fall of 2017. I attended as a representative and hacker for ECSU in the IBM BlueHack Atlanta Hackathon. Working with a team instructed by Joseph Washington, an IBM business employee, we accepted the User Experience and Learning Solutions challenge. The objective consisted of transforming user experiences, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. By utilizing IBM Bluemix software and its various API's, the team developed a web application that initialized a therapeutic AI program, known as Medical Doctor 4 Me (MD4Me). Pitching the software to the judges, the team placed third in the competition.

After obtaining my degrees, I hope to utilize the information that I have gained to work in an industrial field. A degree in data analytics will allow me to become a cognitive data scientist, presenting me the opportunity to analyze various pieces of information, and help advance the field of computer science.