

EVENTS:

**Interview
Workshop**
Monday, Oct. 20,
6-8 p.m. at SCC I-202
or Tuesday, Oct. 21,
6-8 p.m. at CYC 124

**Preparing IT
Portfolios
Workshop:**
Wednesday,
October 22, 6-8 p.m.
at PRC H-123

**Job Fair Preparation
Workshop: Monday,**
Nov. 3,
5-6 p.m. at SCC,
BB219 or
Tuesday, Nov. 4,
10-11 a.m. or
5-6 p.m. in PRC
F-142

JOB FAIR!
Wednesday, Nov. 12
1-4 p.m. PRC
Conference Center

**IT Tutoring
Available:**
[niscgtc.org/tutoring-
calendar.html](http://niscgtc.org/tutoring-calendar.html)



From the Executive Director



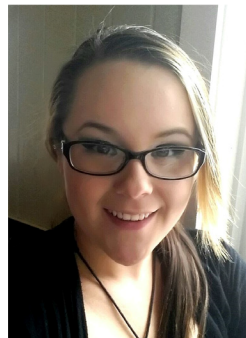
Slightly over a year ago, Chelsea Hall-Fitzgerald was an Art Major at Collin College. Today she is an IT coordinator at the AMX Corporation in Richardson, TX. A lot has transpired in that year. First, her father, a network engineer, convinced her to take a Cisco class, so she signed up for CCNA-1 under Professor Mike Harsh, and she soon learned she had a natural aptitude for information technology. Mike also noticed her skills, but brought her over to meet me because he thought she needed a strong female mentor so that she wouldn't be run over along the way. I'm not so sure Chelsea would have been "run over," but nevertheless, I've had the good fortune of mentoring her since fall 2013.

It's been a fun ride because it's been my chance to work 1-1 with a real student as most of my job now is working with those who ultimately get to work with the students.

When I met Chelsea, she was the typical nineteen-year-old young lady with hair of several colors and lengths, wearing clothes that young ladies of that age typically wear. She even bought a shirt the night that I asked her to be in a photo that we wanted to use for advertising. Chelsea is just now twenty, so I've learned to communicate via texts - at all hours of the day and night, and I learned to leave my phone in the other room at night! She's asked me all sorts of technical and

non-technical questions, so I've gotten to dust off my technical knowledge to help with subnetting problems and various other technical issues, and I've gotten to guide her through resume-writing and interviewing preparations. I've been her cheerleader, and she's amazed me at her ability to lead the other students in her classes.

At one point, I asked her to be an example student for our National Visiting Committee for our National Science Foundation Grant, and Matt Glover, Global Senior Director of IT for AMX attended that meeting. At the time, I suggested he keep an eye on Chelsea because I suggested he might want to hire her in a year or two. At the end of that meeting, he suggested I have her apply for the IT coordinator's position at AMX, a position that said it required a 4-year degree. Matt advised her to apply anyway.



After working with Chelsea to prepare her resume and to prepare her for the interview, she spent the day with the team and evidently really impressed them because they hired her right away. And, according to Matt, he hears daily about Chelsea's great attitude. He says that they expected her to have the aptitude, but they were really impressed with her attitude. She is

a millennial with a "can do," positive, inquisitive attitude that impresses the team daily. And, she's only the second woman in a team of thirty in Matt's area.

Kudos, Chelsea! You make me proud - correction - You make us ALL Proud!!



Spotlight on DOL Student Participants

Jonathan Maples

It seems the possibilities are endless for twenty-three year old Jonathan Maples.

With one semester remaining for completing an Associate's degree, Jonathan attended a NISGTC IT job fair where he landed a job at Fujitsu America. He is now working remotely from the Staples Command Center to repair and configure hardware that is distributed nationwide in every Staples store and is the youngest employee in his office by twenty years.

Jonathan began his IT journey at an early age. Encouraged by

“Don't be shy when first meeting people...”

his father, a computer hobbyist, Jonathan took IT classes in his high school career center, earned an A+

certification and built a custom computer.

During his time at Collin College, Jonathan accepted an entry-level call center position for Netflix.com

and with the combination of his gregarious personality

and computer knowledge was quickly promoted to IT trainer within 6 months.

Jonathan's future plans include pursuing a Bachelor of Arts and opening his own business in Esports (online video game team). He would also love to work for Valve Software as a project manager or producer of a major title.



“Do anything for free, just to get experience,” advises Jonathan. “If you combine a degree with experience, you are golden. Don't be shy when first meeting people even though that is the hardest thing for computer people.”

Jonathan is currently in the process of planning his wedding to his fiancée Kortney to take place on September 26, 2015.

Getting Ready for Employment: A Student's Perspective by Eric Goldman

Although I have generally received positive feedback regarding my resume and interviewing skills in the past, these workshops were very much worth the small time investment required. Thanks to the career coaches and the industry professionals that joined to share their knowledge, I was able to build a stronger, more focused resume that better communicates my skills and experience. I was also able to learn what the interviewers are really looking for in potential candidates, and I learned about numerous tools available to the students to improve their interviewing skills. I highly recommend that any students interested take advantage of these workshops because being successful in today's world means continually adapting; there is nothing to lose and everything to gain by joining in these valuable offerings.

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