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What inspired you to pursue the career path that you are on?

My interest in Software Engineering started during high school. I have always loved solving puzzles, so the thought of developing software that can, in turn, help solve puzzles was captivating to me. I enjoy being part of a Software Development team, where I have to think outside the box to solve challenges alongside teammates who are equally passionate about the field. A career in software engineering felt very like a very natural rewarding role that allowed me to learn something new every day. I can't imagine ever doing anything else.

Tell us about an accomplishment you are proud of?

I am proud of how I performed in my first-ever leadership role. In a previous project, due to unforeseen circumstances, both my team lead and one of my co-developers left the company on short notice. It was impossible to find replacements in such a short timeframe, and although I was only 2 months into the project, I stepped up into the role of the team lead. I received great feedback from both my clients and the entire team at the end of the project. It was an incredibly important, career-defining moment that taught me the core values of leadership, delegation, and mentoring.

How do you continue to grow professionally?

With the ever changing software field, I am always on the lookout for new and emerging platforms to expand my knowledge and skillset. I take skills-related online lessons from online course providers like Udemy, A Cloud Guru, and Skillshare. Recently, I've been interested in Cloud Computing and became certified as an AWS Solutions Architect. I also plan to pursue a Microsoft Azure certification as I really believe expanding my skillset in these ways will help me further my career.

What advice do you have for other women interested in joining your field/team?

My advice is to nurture the passion you have for your field, be open to new experiences, and trying different things. Focus on what you love and the only person you should be comparing yourself to, is you. If you are learning and getting better, celebrate. Deeply believe in yourself and your ability to do amazing things.

How do you define success?

I define success in different ways. At work, it is meeting the goals set by my supervisor and colleagues. I want to be recognized as someone who can get the job done efficiently, who always does her best, and works hard. Success to me is doing your best every day, in all of the roles you play in life, whether it be the role of a mother, wife, or colleague.

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