

Lifelong Learning Lies Ahead

"It's OK to be where you are, it's NOT OK to stay there." - **Brian Aspinall**

#FailForward & Learn

Never stop learning has been a motto of mine since childhood and has transcended into every aspect of my life both personally and professionally. What will I learn today? Often, I learn by happenstance and by making mistakes (I call them learning opportunities). Sometimes I have a learning goal in mind and what I learn is purposeful. Tenacity and grit play a huge role in my personal learning process. I never set out to be an educator, but as serendipity would have it, I can't imagine a more fitting profession. I plan on exploring three specific goals: growing and expanding the Macomb Makerspace, learning a JavaScript framework, and exploring virtual reality. These goals contain both educator and student components centered around teaching and learning. **#FailForward**.

A Time for Making

The Macomb Makerspace opened its doors in Fall of 2018. In just a short period of time we have participated in multiple events associated with middle and high schools throughout Macomb County, MI. Over 800+ students have visited the **Macomb Makerspace** for tours and demonstrations and have participated in hands-on activities associated with the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) fields. Future plans are to expand the Macomb Makerspace to include offering bootcamps for K-12 students that focus on the STEAM fields. By collaborating with my colleagues from different departments at the college and working with the MISD (Macomb Intermediate School District), we can begin offering camps that utilize our Makerspace as a hub for Maker Education. I also want to start offering workshops on a variety of topics (e.g., 3D printing, artificial intelligence) to not only college students, but learners of all ages. I want to make the Macomb Makerspace a destination for learning, creating, exploring, self-discovery, and awakening.

Diving into Frameworks

I have a passion for technology and live, learn, and teach it. Web programming and technologies are not only part of my profession as a teacher, but also a hobby of mine. The web programming field is in constant motion. You have to be able to adapt quickly and a passion for learning is a prerequisite for the profession. There is an industry demand for native web application development which is a driving force behind learning React, a web framework of JavaScript libraries for building user interfaces. My goal is to develop a new course, **Introduction to JavaScript Frameworks**, within the web programming curriculum at Macomb Community College. This course will help prepare students for working in the Web Programming field and boost their employability in the field.

A Virtual Experience

During the Makerspace tours at the college, we have an interactive VR (virtual reality) session for students in which they put on VR goggles and immerse themselves in a virtual reality experience. The response we receive from the students is amazing! Often, I'm asked if we teach students how to create virtual reality experiences and I always respond with "not yet". My goal is to change that. I want to create a VR and 360-degree experience where people can tour the Macomb Makerspace similar to the Wayne State University video clip. We have three Ricoh Theta 360-degree cameras on order which will be used for video capture. VR editing and production software will be used to create and publish a 360-degree experience. I hope to enlist a group of students to capture, produce, and create a virtual and 360-degree tour of the entire campus at Macomb Community College in the future.

Lifelong Learner

The commonalities among my goals centers around learning, teaching, and awakening. By awakening, I mean igniting passion not only within myself but within my students. A passion for doing something exciting, fulfilling, and purposeful. Expanding the Makerspace and offering workshops, bootcamps, and events exploring the STEAM fields opens up a world of opportunities for people and learners of all ages. Learning a new framework within the web programming area affords the knowledge to create a new course that teaches a high demand skill set within the industry. Learning how to use the tools and resources to create a virtual experience and then passing that knowledge onto students and the community, provides learning opportunities for people of all ages. Learning affords opportunities that are limitless. I want to lead by example. I will never stop learning. **I am a lifelong learner.**

Attributions:

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