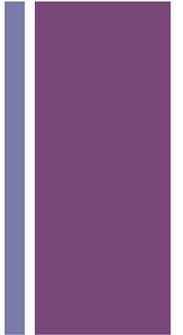# Advice for your Academic & Professional Career and Life in General.

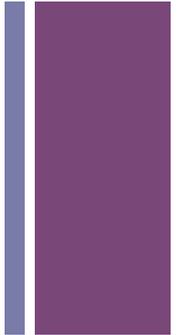Parting thoughts from Mr. Bergquist for his Garfield HS Students.

Most important thing to Learn is to **Learn to Learn!**

- The way technology is developing, odds are you will have a job that did not exist when you went to school sooner than you think.

- Many good Employers look for an employee's willingness and ability to learn more than actual job skills.

- Practice & develop your skills & approaches for learning:
  - In college / university
  - The workplace
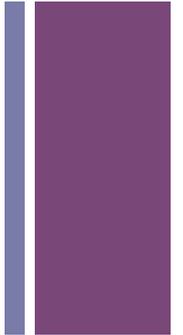 - And on your own, that includes things unrelated to your career.

+ Part of Success is Failure

- You can frequently learn more from a failure than a success. The important thing is to **learn** from it…

- Most companies and entrepreneurs realize that in order to find one profitable idea, they have to try many that fail.

- **Success in most fields, especially Computer Science is about 70% persistence.** Keep trying and find ways to gain assistance (friends, teachers, TA's, etc.).

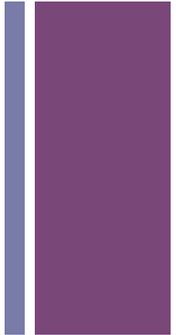- The only real failure is failing to try.

Make you own Experience:
Go Build things.   Just do it!

- Seek out jobs & internships and if those are not available…

- Find volunteer opportunities that may gain you experience, and…

- **Build cool things on your own or better yet with friends.** It will help you constantly develop your skills and…

- **Always have some project that you've done that you can talk about during interviews.** It will give you and advantage over othe candidates.
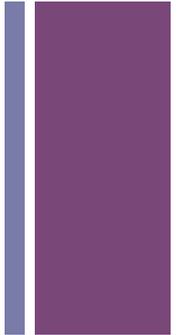
+ Advice for College

- Go easy on yourself your first year, college is very different from high school, and there is lots to learn outside the classroom you first year (i.e. Laundry, work/play balance)

- Use the help resources available to you like class TA's and Professor hours, you are paying for it.

- Choose your next Computer Science class carefully, especially for AP CS students going into CSE 143 or similar. You will want to prepare for it in advance.

- Study groups are great way to make sure you understand material; it's the only way I survived freshman Physics.

- + If you are in a college dorm, consider finding a roommate with your same major & classes. It can really help out.

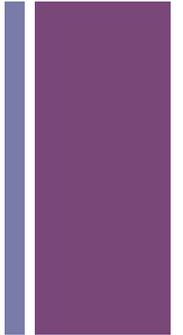# + NETWORK: Personal Connections can be the key to a great opportunity

- Virginia Tech numbers showed that for College Grads, 18 – 41% found their first job by networking: http://www.career.vt.edu/PGReport/ HowVTGradsFoundJobsByCollegeNineYears.pdf

- After first jobs, I found numbers reporting from 40 – 80% of jobs are found by personal relationships & networking.

- **Consider when it is best for you to establish a LinkedIn account?** For the technical industry (and many others) it has become a primary source for maintaining connections, finding jobs and verifying experience. Consider our survey to stay connected with Garfield CS in the future.

Balance your life out with what makes you happy (not just money)

- Take note today what truly makes you the happiest doing? Playing a musical instrument, writing poetry, creating art projects, playing sports, camping, rock climbing, reading, playing with kids in your life, sailing, traveling …

- And make sure to include those and perhaps new passions in your life

- And find others that enjoy them as well.

- Too often people define themselves by their job/major, but there should be much more to your life than that – remember to keep joy in your life, and you will be more balanced and happier.