



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 **what you do** about it & **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.).
- Plus it keeps you humble.

- 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 other 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, for CSE majors that grade is critical.
- Study groups are great way to make sure you understand material; it's the only way I survived freshman Physics.
- BONUS: 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



- Numbers showed that even for College Grads, **18 – 41% found their first job by networking.**
- 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. After you graduate & are 18, feel free to connect with me in **LinkedIn** (Earl Bergquist); I have 200+ tech industry connections that may help you.



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. I do!
- 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.