

PTkau: 00: Intro: Why Digital Technologies?

Video Name: What have our students been missing out on?

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My teacher from high school approached me and told me that I should join the digital technologies class. At first I wasn't too sure but then I did and it was the best time of my life. I fell in love with it really and I carried on with it through to university. She was such an inspiration because she was so energetic and so excited about the course that it made me want to feel the same way. I think it's really important to have that role model that you look up to because she was so cool and I wanted to be like her and she would always talk about how amazing this industry is and all of the places that it's going. Essentially technology is the future and I wanted to be a part of it.

I'm now in my fourth year of university doing software engineering. It's my final honours year. I've worked in industry and I loved it. It is nothing like what I thought it was going to be like. You get told all of the time that being a programmer or a software engineer or a computer scientist that you are going to be stuck in a dark room by yourself coding away but it's nothing like that. It's full of collaborative teamwork. You are creating awesome things. I constantly get told by my lecturers that software engineering isn't just about the logic and the programming it's also about art and that is so true because you are creating things that have never been done before. That's so exciting.

In high school there weren't many girls at all. There was me and my two best friends. We were the only girls in the class. I think that is what really really pushed me to want to go into this industry because there were hardly any of us. Also with that support that came with it; I don't think I'd have been able to do it by myself. It was nice to have that support of those two girls in my class. Now there are a lot more but that being said there's still not many of us. There is a great need for women in technology and it is such a cool thing to be a part of that we really really encourage it.

For me I always want to create with purpose. I want to be able to do something that is going to help people later down the line. I may not be able to do it directly but with technology, it is such a huge thing at the moment that you can help people at this level way down the line.

Over summer I worked for a healthcare company. They connected general practitioners from around New Zealand by connecting information between all the doctors. I knew that it was

getting rid of that paper trail. A lady had a son with a lot of medical issues. So she wouldn't lose any of that information she would lug around a big file of papers on all of the procedures that he had been through, doctors visits and everything like that. It was this lady that I really wanted to help to get rid of that paper trail. For the doctors to be able to connect with each other and pass through that information would save so many people down the line. This mother wouldn't have to worry about losing any bits of paper that could essentially save her child. That just clicked, that's what I really wanted to do. It made such a difference. I was creating something with a purpose, I was not directly helping that woman but down the line I knew I was. That was so very important to me.

I have had such a fortunate upbringing in terms of who taught me when I was younger. I thank my teacher every day for getting me to where I am now. She has essentially shaped my career and I couldn't be more grateful. It is teachers like her that really do make a difference. Her enthusiasm and her encouragement and just wanting to get more women in technology has made a massive difference. I couldn't thank her enough.

My teacher actually had a physical education degree before she started doing any programming. I think that is something else I really clicked with her about because back in high school I was all about the sports. I love sports and that's really what I wanted to do. I had it set in my mind that I wanted to do outdoor education. I started programming much like her. She told me she did a physical education degree. Now she's a computer science teacher. It was cool to see that contrast. You can still have the best of both worlds. She definitely encouraged me to go to university and I loved it. I think it's the most awesome thing ever.

I encourage everyone to take a leap. It's a scary thing and it is really hard but it's that satisfaction that you get at the end that you know you've done a good job or you've solved a problem and it's helping people. That is really satisfying. Computer science or software engineering, whatever you want to call it, it wasn't what I initially wanted to do but as soon as I gave it a go I realised the endless opportunities that it would give me and the amount of joy that I get out of it is so cool.