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Marketing and Communications

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Graduate Profile: Using Digital Tools to Make a Real World Impact

Office of Marketing and Communications

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The show must go on. Stay consistent, don't give up.

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For Derron Jackson the world of computer science is a world of opportunity.

Graduating this spring with his [Bachelor of Science in Computer Science](#) from [Governors State University](#), Jackson is transferring the skills he learned at GSU and through his internship with a Fortune 500 company to his new job with Ford Motor Company as a Software Engineer.

GSU Newsroom: What brought you to GSU?

Jackson: I transferred to Governors State through the [Dual Degree Program](#) from City Colleges of Chicago Kennedy-King in fall of 2019.

I knew computer science was a rapidly growing field. I was always into technology and computer science teaches you about the different fields within it. I love to problem solve through code, which can have real-world impact. Governors State was an affordable option.

GSU Newsroom: What are some of the highlights from your time at GSU?

Jackson: The time I became vice president of the GSU Drone Engineering team. I wanted to educate people in tech and show the cool opportunities you can branch into like the autonomous drone industry.

I also did an internship with Fiat Chrysler Automotive in the summer of 2020 where I managed a data catalog from the Microsoft Azure cloud with data scientists and engineers.

GSU Newsroom: Who were some of the professors who shaped your experience and your future?

Jackson: Professor Freddie Kato, Neng-Shin Chen, and [Aslam \(Sam\) Shahid](#). They always pushed me to the limit, and I loved their advice from their IT career experience.

GSU Newsroom: What's next after graduation?

Jackson: I will be starting my full-time position at Ford Motors as a software engineer and will be pursuing my master's degree in business administration. I also want to mentor others that have struggles and want to overcome obstacles. My own experiences through the [Male Success Initiative](#) Program at Governors State really inspired me.

GSU Newsroom: What advice would you give GSU students?

Jackson: The show must go on. Stay consistent, don't give up.