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Reflection #3

150 Hours into the Innovation Lab Internship/Reflection Paper 3

Working as a program assistant for 150 hours has been incredible and has given me a lot to reflect on. For my last 50 hours working for the iLab, I've had to do a variety of tasks involving the K-12 fieldtrips. These recent tasks consisted of working in the iLab to assist a grade 6-8 spring break camp, working with a decal printer and a heat press to print designs on shirts, and continuing to complete tasks from the intern task list. One of the main highlights of this last set of 50 hours was when my hard work in the hydroponics system finally paid off with a batch of fully grown Bok Choy, Kale, and Basil. The joy I got from seeing my hard work pay off was very satisfying, and the compliments from the other interns and staff as they harvested the vegetables and herbs felt amazing. Another highlight of this last set of 50 hours was working as a facilitator for the spring break camp. This camp was called "Voyage to Code" and it consisted of a week-long event where students would create boat designs and 3D print them for a variety of tests.

I primarily worked as a helper going around to each table to help out wherever help was needed. I also did a lot of the 3D printing work as the other interns that day were occupied with the other activities we were holding that day. The week of the spring break camp was incredibly fun as seeing the spring break camp students' faces and the amount of questions, and ideas flying around when they had to think outside the box for their boat designs was quite enjoyable. I would say that my experiences within this last set of 50 hours have given me a good complete understanding of my learning objectives. I say this as I've grown quite accustomed to professional communication and collaboration which will continue to benefit me in my future career. I've also learned to fail multiple times and accepted that failure is a major part of getting better, and I've found that the design framework is something that can be applied anywhere, even in cybersecurity.

On top of the previously mentioned value of collaboration and professionalism in the previous reflection, the value of learning to succeed through failure and the value of empathy has been some of the most important things I've learned while working through these last 50 hours. The values of learning to succeed through failure and empathy were constantly taught throughout my time in the iLab, I just didn't notice it before. Every day at the iLab I see the value of empathy. Empathy is seen constantly when working with the K-12 students as it's needed to understand their problems and needed to properly help them with their struggles during the activities. The value of succeeding through failure is also commonly seen in the iLab. I see this value daily while working with the k-12 students on their designs for whatever activity is going on that day, but I also see it in my tasks with the hydroponics system, heat press, and much more. The

values I've learned from my time at the iLab have helped me complete my learning objectives of building professional design communication skills, demonstrating professional teamwork and collaboration, learning to succeed through failure and applying the design framework to my thought process.

In addition to the field trips, spring break camp, and work, I've gotten the opportunity to continue working with various machinery to complete my tasks on the intern task sheet. Specifically, I've mostly worked with the Babylon hydroponic systems, the 3D printers, heat press, glue machine, and the decal printer. The main piece of machinery I've worked with was the Babylon hydroponics system. Similarly to my second set of 50 hours, I was fully tasked with maintaining the hydroponics system for the entire last set of 50 hours. I clean it out after every harvest, plant new plants based on the staff and fellow intern suggestions, and ensure the level of water, pH, and nutrient count is sufficient. It was quite an enjoyable experience getting to discuss the hydroponics system with the actual manufacturers when they came to the iLab for an event. I was given the opportunity to discuss a multitude of questions and issues I've had with the hydroponics system, which they answered professionally and in an enlightening way.

I've also used a lot of the cybersecurity knowledge I've learned in class to fix the hydroponics system, and the iLab's iPad connection to the sphero rovers that the Innovation lab had recently acquired. One of the main systems I fixed was the iPad's connection to the new sphere rovers that the iLab recently acquired. This was a little difficult as the sphero rover manual wasn't included with the package and required a bit of searching to find an english version. The fix itself required me to reset the bluetooth

connection that the iPad had to the sphero rover which due to the bluetooth connection covered in one of my earlier courses allowed me to root out the problem and solve it rather quickly.

Overall, the last set of 50 hours has been very fun. Being able to work with the spectacular staff and fellow interns at the Innovation lab has been a great honor. Seeing the excitement and curiosity of the students when we start talking about the activities for the day will always make me smile. I think my time working for the iLab will be a reminder that curiosity and the excitement to learn will also be important for teaching, and for properly engaging with future projects and jobs. This internship has been genuinely amazing, and I have had a wonderful time working with them all. Overall, the internship has allowed me to complete my learning objectives and has given me the understanding and skills to conduct myself in a general office setting.