Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum Scholarship

Jared Lambeth

Details

Major:
Information Technology

Awarded During:
Academic Year 2025

Why Towson University:
I chose Towson University due to the structure of the IT major along with the school's connections to local businesses and government organizations. During my time here, I hope to utilize those connections to find an exceptional internship and eventual job.

Best Moment or Greatest Achievement:
Getting to work with the cyber defense club. I made a lot of great connections there and was given a space to maintain my current knowledge from my certifications. I am a firm believer that teaching others is one of the best ways to not only learn something, but to maintain that knowledge. By sharing some of my experiences and knowledge with other students in the cyber defense club, it gives me an outlet for all the information I have stored in my head.

Extra-curricular Activities:
I was scouted by members of the cyber defense club due to my CCNA certification and provided help during the MACCDC competition. When possible, I tutor students in computer science related courses. A favorite achievement of mine was helping four high-school students pass the CCNA certification exam.

Notable Experience:
I had an internship with Cisco Networking Academy where I was responsible for maintaining a lab environment consisting of windows 10 computers, cisco routers, and cisco switches. I provided help to high school students during lab exercises in preparation for their CCNA exams. This internship had a profound impact on me.
The one experience that I want to focus on was the time we had received all new routers and switches. It was my job to switch out the old devices for the new, however, before installing the devices, I checked their configurations to ensure everything worked as intended. Nothing was working as intended. It turned out that we had been sent the wrong operating system. We received an SDN data plane operating system which meant the devices could not be configured locally and instead required a SDN controller to operate. Through much trial and error, I was able to discover this fact, remove the incorrect operating

system, and install the correct one.

It is fair to say that this experience taught me a great deal of patience. Despite the issues I encountered during the internship, I was not dissuaded to pursue a career in IT. I actually grew to enjoy sitting in that lab working through those problems. Admittedly, I had my reservations before taking the internship, but I genuinely believe it changed my life for the better.

Career Plans:

I am pursuing a career in cloud networking. Originally, I had intended to work on traditional network architectures, however, given that the industry has trended more toward cloud based technologies, I believe that it would be in my best interest to start in cloud networking as soon as possible. This does not mean I am adverse to taking a job working on traditional networks however as I am well aware how difficult finding your first job in IT can be, but I do hope to get my start in cloud networking sooner rather than later.

A thank you note from your student:

I am sincerely thankful and honored to have been chosen as a recipient for the 2025 mid-atlantic CIO forum scholarship. It has been no easy job to gather funds for my continued education and your generous scholarship has lifted a great deal of stress off my shoulders. I promise to remain committed to my studies and conduct myself in a manner befitting a representative of your values.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to supporting college students such as myself,
Jared Lambeth