Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum Scholarship

Luis Dale Gascon

Details

Major:

Computer Science

Awarded During:

Academic Year 2025

Why Towson University:

I choose to stay at Towson University because of all the amazing people that I have met through my employment at Towson University. The departments that I've had the pleasure to work with are very supportive of their student employees, in regards to their academic and career goals.

Another reason I choose to stay at Towson University is their commitment to providing resources for their students to succeed, especially the Career Center. I was surprised to find that the Career Center had a service where they let you keep a professional outfit. I took advantage of that offer to look my best for the career fair and it made me feel more confident approaching employers.

Best Moment or Greatest Achievement:

My greatest achievement so far has been applying my knowledge and experience in classroom technologies to keep lectures uninterrupted. I've always offered a hand whenever I spot a technical issues, even outside of work hours. It feels good to know that I've eased a lecturer's mind so he/she can solely focus on their lecture, instead of trying to figure out why a projector isn't working.

Extra-curricular Activities:

I am a member of the Software Engineering Club, where I've hosted workshops on topics outside of the usual coursework material and answer questions in the club's Discord. This club introduced me to a lot of talented and passionate peers and is also what my current position as a Junior Software Developer for SecurEd.

Another university club that I'm a member of is the Glider Alliance. It's a club for anyone who enjoys riding anything on wheels, such as scooters, skateboards, and bikes.

Notable Experience:

Last semester, I had a differential equation presentation on a given scientific paper, which served as our final. I worked with classmates who were the top performers in the class and I initially felt intimidated

because it seemed like there wasn't much that I could contribute towards. However, our presentation did involve simulations so I was glad that I could be relied upon due to my knowledge of Python.

I had a hard time asking for help because I was afraid of asking a question that made it sound like I didn't read the paper at all. The paper was really dense and technical, so reading the paper on my own took quite some time. Nearing the date of presentations, I was stuck on a problem. I did have another team mate that experience in Python that I could ask for help. I finally had the courage to ask and left my ego at the door. We worked on coming up with solutions and eventually, we did. I learned that team mates are there to help, not to judge you. I can take what I've learned about this experience to the real world, where it's critical that you ask the right questions.

Career Plans:

I aspire to be an open source contributor to projects that I believe in. It would give me so much pride to see a feature that I've implemented for others to use, as insignificant it may be. But in terms of career aspirations to sustain myself, I aim to work along the lines of a site reliability engineer. I choose this career because of its low barrier of entry. It always amazes me how plain text can be used to create complex systems that many depend upon.

A thank you note from your student:

Dear scholarship donors,

I want to give a huge thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the Mid-Atlantic CIO scholarship. I'm honored that I was chosen as a recipient and beyond grateful for your support and belief in me.

This generous donation will provide me financial security for the upcoming fall semester. I'm truly grateful that I can concentrate on improving my skills so that I may be more employable in time for graduation.

Thank you once again for your generous support. I aim to make the most of this opportunity to continue working on my goals and I look forward to have the chance to give back unto others just as you have helped me.

Best regards,
Luis Dale Gascon