

## CNIT SUCCESS STORIES

Computer Networking and Information Technology – CNIT – is proud of these students, now IT professionals and some even returning to CNIT as TA's or Teachers:

**Tamika Jones** – completed her AS Degree in CNIT Tech Support, Mathematics in 2013. While as a student, she was part of the Alpha Gamma Sigma society. Since 2010 she is an Apple Certified Support Professional, a Microsoft Certified IT Professional and Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist among other industry certifications she earned while studying. While studying she was promoted to Frontline Support Analyst at PG&E, later worked as a Service Desk Support Specialist as PRO Unlimited while teaching part-time at CNIT and going through the internship program to form teachers at CCSF. In 2014 she became a full-time teacher for the CNIT Department.

**Elizabeth Biddlecome** – completed her AS Degree in CNIT Network Security and while studying she participated in the CCSF Coders, CCSF Hackers, Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition, and Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. She also earned 3 certificates: Advanced Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity, and Network Security. She is a CompTIA Security+ certified since January/2021. She worked as a Tutor and TA for the CNIT Cybersecurity courses for more than 2 years. She works at InfoSec Decoded as a Senior Security Researcher, she is also a Trainer for the CyberPatriot Cyber Camps and a part-time instructor for CNIT

**Alan Wennersten** – completed many different courses in the areas of Tech Support and Cybersecurity at CNIT. Worked as a Metadata Program Manager at Watchwith and now works as a part-time instructor for the CNIT Department teaching classes in the cybersecurity and tech support areas.

**Soledad Antelada** - graduated in 2012 - CNIT AS Degree focus on Network Security and worked as Cybersecurity Engineer at NERSC, Berkeley Lab, also a Network Security Chair at SC20, and also Chair in Women in IT Networking at SC(WINS) - the SCinet is a global collaboration of high-performance networking experts. She is also the founder of Girls Can Hack. She has been invited to speak at many conferences, even outside the US, about cybersecurity. She currently works as a Security Technical Program Manager at Google. In 2023 Soledad was nominated for the “Top Women in Cybersecurity, Americas” award. Since Sep/2024 Soledad has been hired as a Deputy CISO at Harris for President Campaign.

**Yolanda Alonso** - certificate of achievement in Mobile Web App Development in 2018 and now working as a software engineer at Practice Fusion in San Francisco

**Lawrence Chin** - graduated in 2014 - CNIT AS Degree focus on Computer Tech Support - has worked since graduation as an IT Tech Support Technician - his last job at University of San Francisco. Recently got his certification as Google IT Support Professional. Currently works as a Field Service Technician at First Republic Bank as a contractor by the Bay Area Tech Workers

**Alisha Taylor** - graduated in 2015 - CNIT AS Degree focus on Computer Tech Support, worked at Madsen, Kneppers & Associates, Inc as an IT Support Technician, and currently works as an IT Support Technician at MKA International

[Joshua Tosches](#) – participated in the Web Developers & Designers Club, although graduating with a major in Finance, attended many different classes in web development – currently is a team lead, data solutions at ZoomInfo

[Christopher Chang](#) - recently got the certificate of achievement in Advanced Web Dev Techniques but has been a Mobile and Web Developer intern in the SF Living Wage Coalition and now works as a Salesforce Developer

[Jamell Tyson](#) - certificate of accomplishment in Security for Web Application Development and in 2018 and is working as a Network Security Engineer at Trust Us Technologies

[Olga Formin](#) - certificate of achievement in Advanced Web Dev Techniques in 2016 and now working as a Software Engineer at Tesla

[Olga Fedorenko](#) - she was a teaching assistant for CNIT 132 class in Spring 2017 after attending the class during Fall 2016. Now works as a Front-End Engineer at SynapseFI

[Stefan Musarra](#) - has taken all the classes in the front-end web development path as P/NP and works as a Software Engineer at Tremor Video

[Keith Burton](#) - certificate of Windows Networking and Network Security in 2015 and 2014 and currently working as a consultant in forensic analysis at Lemniscate Digital Forensics

[Guillermo Ayala](#) - AS Degree with focus on Computer Tech Support in 2013. Worked as an intern in the TechSpot project hosted by CNIT where students were fixing computers of CCSF staff and other students. Worked as an IT Technician for the Asian, Inc. and now is part of the Internship program at City & County of San Francisco (Student Design Trainee, Architecture, Engineer, and Planning).

[Dejone Jones](#) - certificates of Network Security and Network Fundamentals in 2015 and currently working as a Service Desk Field Technician at Soundshore Technology Group (a Coreteligent Company)

[Lena Zheng](#) - worked as a Programmer Analyst for City College while attending some courses in the front-end web development path. Worked as an intern to develop the website for the TechSpot program coordinated by CNIT in 2015 and currently is a Software Development Engineer at Amazon. Since 2021 she is working as a Software Engineer at Google

[Roger Kiel](#) - started with basic certificates in 2013 and then was one of the interns in CNIT to help students and staff with computer problems. Transferred to San Francisco State where he completed his Bachelor in Technical Writing and then his Master Degree in Instructional Designer. Currently studying to complete his Doctorate Degree in Education in Leadership and Learning and working as Mobile Tech Support/Installation Consultant

[Juan Salvador](#) - started at CCSF pursuing his AS Degree focusing on Computer Tech Support and Cisco Networking. Currently working as a Technical Support Engineer at ServiceNow

[Michcail Pusey](#) - certificate of Fundamentals of Tech Support in 2012 while completing the YearUp program in partnership with CNIT. In 2020 got his CompTIA A+ certificate and now is currently working as a Desktop Support Technician at Seton Medical Center

[Michael Alberta](#) – various certificates of accomplishment and achievement of CNIT and finished his AS Degree with focus in Network Security in 2017. Transferred to San Francisco State and finished

his Bachelor in Business Administration – Information Systems in 2019 and is now an Information Technology Specialist with a CompTIA A+ certification

**Jimonté Johnson** – completed the Year Up program and got his Associate Degree from CNIT in 2017 with focus on Computer Tech Support. Currently working at Chime as an Information Technology Support Engineer. In 2023 he started working for Open Door Legal as a Technical Customer Engagement Manager.

**Bedford Williamson** – completed the Web Dev Techniques Certificate in 2014 and currently is a Senior Software Engineer at PayPal Giving Fund

**Huiying Sabrina Wang** – referred and completed with honors the internship at County of Alameda in Summer 2021 as web developer. Started working after that as a web developer intern at Jefferson Labs. Has been recently hired by CNIT to be tutor for entry-level classes in the frontend web development

**Daniel Saw** – referred and completed with honors the internship at County of Alameda in Summer 2021 as web developer.

**Yessenia Matta** – referred and completed with honors the internship at County of Alameda in Summer 2021 as web developer. Since 2020, she is working as Data Center IT Assistant at LBNL Accelerator Technology and Applied Physics. She was also part of the Salesforce Pathfinder Training Program

**Fabio Castello Branco** – completed some web development courses and in Spring 2021, completed the course CNIT 155 that successfully prepared him for the AWS Cloud Practitioner certification exam. He is a Senior Tech Product Manager and works with AWS at SquareTrade since 2019.

**Lina Kondratyeva** – started her IT path with CNIT since 1999 and completed her first certificate in Networking/Telecommunication in May/2000. Later on she moved to the web development, software engineering career taking courses to learn HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery. Currently she works full time as Lead QA Engineer at Soul Machines

**Elizabeth Hadik-Barkoczy** – has been recently (Dec/2021) hired as an intern at Indeed through a referral from CNIT faculty at Tectonica. She will be performing the duties of a Full-Stack Engineer

**Nanthana Thanonklin** – completed here AS Degree in CNIT with focus in Network Security and Web Development – part of the Dean's list. Her last work was as a contractor at VMware as a Datacenter Operations Engineer II.

**David Breitenbuecher** – completed the Web Development Certificate at CCSF. Currently is working at Farmer's Business Network as a Frontend Software Engineer.

**Chantilly Apollon** – completed between 2019 and 2021 the Mobile Web Application Development Certificate. Currently works at Foundation for California Community Colleges as a Project Specialist, Technology. Has worked as a TA for CNIT Department at the Server-side tech for web dev course. Currently working as an Agile Project Manager for technology projects at a non-profit organization.

**Nena Djaja** – completed the Web Development Technologies Certificate. Currently working as a Product Engineering Lead at Edge & Node.

**Billal Bourki** – completed his AS Degree in CNIT focusing on the Tech Support in 2014. Currently works as an IT Infrastructure and System Engineer at CR and before that, he worked for 6 years up to the level of IT Infrastructure Manager at Room to Read.

**Wladyslaw Pylypczuk** – completed his AS Degree in CNIT and the Mobile Web Application Development Certificate. He is currently working as web software developer at Teamcal AI

**Kerrie Lu** – from the Cybersecurity program, she is now a Cybersecurity Analyst at Circle Ci

**Sunshine Chong** – part of the Cybersecurity program, she works as a Software Engineer at Microsoft

**Jennifer Kai** – part of the Cybersecurity program, she works as a Software Engineer Analyst at Wells Fargo

**Eli Wald** – obtained the Cybersecurity certificate around 2019, worked, until 2021 at Intivix as a Support Engineer and is now part of the Master Degree program at Stanford University

**Dante Alabastro** – obtained the AS Degree CNIT – Network Security around 2018 and is now working at Google via the Red Team Lead which is now part of the Google cloud

**Zoey Garvey** – completing the Advanced Cybersecurity certificate and is working at GRIMM (SMFS, Inc) as an Application Security Engineer

**Stepan Sqibnev** – completed his AS Degree, started working as an intern for UCSF and continues working at UCSF as an IT Field Service Technician

**Taras Veratsennik** – completed his AS Degree in CNIT – Network Security in 2020. For 6 months, during 2020, worked as a Penetration Tester for Adaptable Security Corp. Then started as a Help Desk Engineer for Intelligent Technical Solutions in 2021, where he continues to work as a Network Engineer

**Stuart Wong** – part of the Cybersecurity program and the team that won the CPTC Competition. He works, since 2020, as a full-time Senior IT Associate – Risk Advisory Services for BDO USA

**Hamid Ghaderi Ardakani** – obtained CNIT Certificate for Support Services, completed his studies for the AWS Academy Cloud Foundations and certificate was issued in May 2022. Started as an intern at Straight Up Technologies troubleshooting computers, setting up network, moved to Borderlands Produce Rescue as a part-time IT Manager and in Oct 2022 started at Sutter Health as Desktop Support Technician and has been promoted to Device Support Technician II.

**Tulu Defersha** – graduated in 2014 with an AS Degree focusing on Computer Technical Support. From 2016 to beginning of 2019 worked as a Technical Support Specialist, full time, at TSYS and before that position, right after graduating, he worked as a contractor, for 1 year at Kaiser Permanent as an IT Support Specialist. Worked as a Desk Analyst contractor for Global IT Service during 2022 and, before that, worked as an IT Service Technician, as a contractor, for Wells Fargo. Currently is working as a Desktop Engineer at University of California, San Francisco.

**Fernando Valle** – graduated in 2023 with an AS Degree focusing on Front-End Web Development. Has been attending front-end web development courses at CCSF and during May/June 2023 he was accepted into the “Visualize Traffic Dataset with WebGL” as a software engineer within urban development / civil engineering field. Will be part of the group that will create an application to analyze publicly available data and process to help users understand the traffic.

**DeMarco Wynne** – came to CCSF with a bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University in International Relations and a master’s degree in public administration – environmental services from the American Public University System. He started changing his career at CCSF and finished, in 2016 the Computer Technical Support Certificate. Since 2022, he has been working at the County of Alameda in the position of Administrative Support I.

**Mustab-Shira Ruhany** – came to CCSF with a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Daffodil International University. She started her career change at CCSF and got her AS degree in CNIT with focus in Cybersecurity in 2022. She was a student intern at the Berkley Lab from Oct/22 until Mar/23. She started as a Training Assistant for the Bay Area Cyber League in May/23

**Ambrogino Giusti** – completed the Salesforce Pathfinder program and is currently working as a Salesforce Software Engineer at Liberty Mutual

## COMMENTS



“CNIT Program at CCSF opened many doors for me in the IT field. I gained lifelong friends who are resources in the same field, as well as amazing job opportunities. One of those opportunities led to my current role, which I’ve held for nearly 4 years now”.

[Alisha Taylor](#)

“It’s been a journey, and I couldn’t have made it without wonderful professors like you and the CNIT courses at CCSF. I would love to help share that message and value to the CCSF community. To reword it for a quote: The CCSF CNIT courses and professors opened me up to the limitless possibilities of the internet and technology. I wouldn’t be where I am today without them”.

[Joshua Tosches](#)



”22 years ago, I came to US got into CCSF and obtained my first CNIT certificate of ‘Networking/Telecommunication’. It was a very successful start in my career and over 20 years I have worked in IT for big and small companies. During the pandemic I had some extra time saved from commute and leveraged it toward my new certificate ‘Front-End Development’ and I know I can change my career to a whole new level with CCSF and never get bored ! :) “

[Lina Kondratyeva](#)

“I have taken all these classes and learned a lot, been challenged, and had fun. I’m a bit sad as I’m reaching the end of my time at CCSF in the CNIT department as I’ve maxed out on taking classes. However, because of these courses, I was also able to change careers. I went from teaching Biology to now being an Agile Project Manager for technology projects at a nonprofit. I’ve used the skills and knowledge from these courses to be able to communicate effectively with developers and know what is possible, what is not possible, and how long something might take. Thank you, Professor Da Silva and CCSF CNIT Department!”

[Chantilly Apollon](#)

