

Hello, World

In my community, computer science is a topic that no one speaks about. I never heard anything about computer science, coding, or anything related to technology until I did some research on my own.

Once I discovered coding, I was hooked.

It was only a year ago, but in this year, my life has changed so much.

I became the president of the Computer Science Club at my school, it was terrifying. I didn't think I knew enough to teach people only after a month or two of coding.

I am happy I pushed on because it was a great experience. Those "my code is working!" moments were priceless to watch, and I was so excited other people were experiencing my passion.

Throughout the year I tried to further learn about coding on my own. The first step was going to a hackathon, a very interesting experience. My first hackathon was Hacking Generation Y in California, across the country. I took a leap of faith and boarded the plane alone, which is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I learned about this community of hackers, high school students just like me who

were interested in learning just like me. It made me feel less alone, yet, strange because there weren't many people who were like me.



I was only able to count a handful of other Latinas and I realized how prevalent the gender issue really is, especially for ethnic minorities.

I looked online to find the statistics. According to the National Center for Women and Information Technology in 2013, only 3% of African American women were represented in the computing workforce, and Hispanic women were only 2%. These numbers are frightening and unacceptable.

I knew I wanted to reach out to more girls like me, although I wanted to create a caring environment where they could fail and learn in a safe environment. This is why I co-founded Culture Tech Cadets, a coding initiative to bring young girls from diverse communities and expose them to

the world of technology. It changed my life, it is my duty to spread it because there might be one other person who wouldn't have the opportunity to learn otherwise. Computer science not only opened so many doors for me, but broke down doors I never imagined possible, I felt like I could do anything. This is why I am so passionate, and cannot wait to run to the Computer Science Club for another year.