I. **Summary of Goals and Objectives**

I would like to work on education technology in the future because I love education, children, and technology. I feel like intertwining all the subjects I am passionate about into a career is going to help me love what I do and work hard to achieve my goals. I have worked with children for over a decade now and with every age group from 6 months to 16 year olds. This has given me a wonderful glimpse into the world of teaching. It has (1) taught me the value of the imagination, (2) forced me to deeply think about what style of learning is optimal for each personality type and age group, and it has also (3) taught me the importance of educating the future. I am a strong believer that children are the future and working in a field like education technology where sculpting young minds in S.T.E.M fields is the most beneficial and rewarding path I could take.

The world is experiencing a technological revolution spanning all STEM disciplines. This includes organ growth and repair, smart materials, robot swarms, advanced communications, reusable rockets, driverless vehicles, smart grid and much more. The need for engineers has never been greater [6]. With only 7% of all U.S. BS degrees going to engineers and 10% for STEM total, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has created special programs to significantly increase the number of individuals pursuing STEM degrees (e.g. NSF S-STEM program) [7].

Providing effective, reliable, and personalized education accessible from anywhere in the world is revolutionary. Students would be able to strengthen their knowledge from anywhere and at any time. In this technological revolution, it is inevitable that the emphasis of technology in the classroom will continue to grow tenfold in the years to come. In fact, within the next 10 to 20 years education technology will impact every school around the world. “By 1999, there was one computer for every six children.1 Yet despite this massive infusion of technology, overall improvements in education have been minimal.” [1]

I am passionate about education technology because I am passionate about education, children, and technology. My main motivation for pursuing education technology is to establish a foundation for a senior design project and future career path. My ultimate goal is to become a Senior Software Engineer with a focus on education technology analytics. This would allow me to be a part of improving the lives of children all over the world through education and help change the way the education system works as a whole.

“A system based on fixed time and variable learning is not an educational institution, it is a filtering institution: it separates those who learn quickly from those who do not. Rather than address the needs of each learner, we label some children as "slow learners," and relegate them to the scrap heap of society. While it might be argued that, in the past, those who lacked the capacity to fit into the mold of schooling could still find gainful employment, those days are fast diminishing. Lifelong learning is the
norm, and jobs that can be done by those with little education are either being automated out of existence or are being exported to other countries where low-wage jobs still support viable lifestyle.” [8]

I would you like to work at Edupoint because it is a local, Arizona based, technology company focused on finding the best learning techniques for each student individually. They aim to create a platform that can redefine the “one-size-fits-all” approach to education by individualizing instruction frameworks to fit effective learning styles for every student. Edupoint has been a part of nearly every major innovation involving student data management technology for K-12 schools for 30 years and I want to be a part of that impact.

Edupoint also has a compatible workplace environment that fits my most effective and beneficial learning styles. They are focused on creating a fun, diverse, and learning centered atmosphere for their employees. They also concentrate on innovation, client based improvement, quality over quantity, and big thinking. They understand the importance and effect of education in the community and strive to always be improving their products.

My professional goals are to create a reliable and positive career where I can be excited to go to work every day and know that I am making a difference in my community. My professional objectives are to first find an internship this coming 2019 summer that I am excited about. I will be graduating in this fall with my Bachelors and hopefully beginning grad school in the Spring of 2019. In the meantime, I will focus on building my resume with research and technical qualities.

One of my general life goals is to find a career where I enjoy the work and all of the struggles that accompany it. I want to have a sense of connection between my day to day work and its positive impact on the community. Another one of my life goals is to start a family focused on education, self-awareness and honesty. My last general life goal is continuing to be a lifelong learner. I want to strive to always be experimenting, trying, failing, listening, explaining, and being a student in all aspects of life both professional and personal.

Some of my life objectives include living in the present moment, doing more good than bad in terms of impact on family, friends, community, and the earth. As human beings, it is our natural state to always be trying to improve and to never be satisfied. This instinct has helped us to not only survive throughout the centuries but also to thrive. But with this constant curiosity and drive to do more, thinking too far ahead from the here and now can be detrimental to the future we desire. So, my objective in life is to always stay curious and plan for the life I want but to also never forget that the life I have is enough and to appreciate and enjoy where I am now. I value the experiences verses monetary rewards. As an engineer, it is assumed we will make a lot of money but that has never been my goal. I do want a secure and reliable wage that can support the family I want to create but beyond that money is not a motivating
factor for me personally. What I value most, in a career setting, is solid relationships, important work, and acquiring meaningful knowledge.

II. **Current Status**
I have currently taken 115 credits and am working on my last 14 as an undergrad. I am technically prepared to program in languages like C, C++, Java, etc. I have strong math skills so I am prepared to work with advanced mathematic scenarios. I am missing real world experience. I have not yet applied my knowledge accumulated in the past three years to solve real world problems. I am looking forward to taking classes focused on application development because I am very interested in its practical applications. I believe becoming a proficient and skilled application developer will help me significantly in my professional careers. I am also looking forward to taking my first Computer Science Capstone Project course next semester. I know this course will help me work on a relevant project in a subject I am curious about and this will really help me pin down a career path and focus for after graduation. I feel am I doing a decent job when it comes to my current resume and cover letter. I have perfected both to the best of my ability given my lack of professional experience. I know that when I begin to build upon my experience my resume will grow and become a very compelling and sellable commodity. I am not particularly confident about my writing skills nor my presentation skills. I have a fear of public speaking that I am actively working on. I know this is an area that is in need of some refinement and refreshing. An area I am confident in is my critical thinking. I think about thinking constantly and in some cases too often. This skill comes in handy within the school and education department.

III. **Education**

My math, programming, and engineering courses have steadily steered/guided my career path. More specifically, my courses in data structures and algorithms, Java/C/C++ programming, software quality and assurance testing, intelligent interactive instructional systems, and theoretical computer science have provided a very good foundation for my proposed work and career objectives. As engineers, it is our greatest accomplishment to be leading innovators. Education is one of the only fields left that has not been significantly improved with the help of technology. And since education is the foundation of all creativity and innovation, I believe adding to
the research of education technology is one of the most important roles I will ever play in my professional career.

IV. Research Experience
I have had the opportunity to work Dr. Armando Rodriguez on 2 funded FURI and WAESO projects. I also worked on the ASAP project scholarship this previous 2018 summer. All of my research projects revolve around education technology in the form of iOS mobile applications. We have focused on teaching the front-of-the-engineering-pipeline course Algebra through the scenically tested learning techniques outlined in “Make It Stick.” We are also currently conducting research into the implementation of virtual and augmented reality into the application to support deepened learning.

I am very comfortable working independently and find that I work more efficiently in these situations. That being said, I am still a great team player and am able to work with lots of different types of personalities. I do prefer individual work over group work though. I know that I can improve on my group work skills and communication techniques. I tend to keep to myself and work alone which is not always feasible or conducive to producing the best results.

V. Work Experience
Currently, I have had no technical work experience in industry. I have mainly worked with children throughout my time at ASU and in high school. My goal is to get a technical job in my field this upcoming 2019 summer. I am looking into tech positions in education so I can get an idea of what my potential career opportunities in industry will look like for me moving forward.

VI. Community Service
Community service is not only important for the community but also for our own personal health. I find it extremely rewarding to volunteer for groups and organizations I believe in. I have volunteered at Kid Zone events throughout the years and I have more recently volunteered for my older sister in her 6th grade classroom. I love opportunities where I can connect with the youth. Children are the future and there is nothing more inspiring then helping their young minds explore their curiosities.

VII. Personal Mentoring Plan
I have been mentoring with one of my professors, Rida Bazzi, for about a year now. We have met several times and discussed a plethora of topics. He gave me smart and useful advice on graduate school, internships, and critical thinking as it pertains to programming. He also wrote me a letter of recommendation for graduate school. I hope to continue this mentorship and build a solid professional relationship with Bazzi. I have also had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Rodriguez. He has been my advisor and mentor for the past year and we have worked on several projects together. He also wrote me a letter of recommendation for graduate school.
I am pleased with my progress on finding and creating valuable mentor relationships. I would like to add to these relationships by finding a female mentor as well. I believe this would be very beneficial for me to have someone that has gone through the same struggles and faces the same obstacles as a woman. I would love to be able to ask for guidance and aspiration from a woman in S.T.E.M, preferably Computer Science.

VIII. Economic and Financial Goals
Economically I am in a good place. I have no student debt and am on track to get my Bachelor’s degree with loans under 10K. I live responsibly and do not spend money randomly and without thought. I am fragile and I budget weekly. I intend to apply for more scholarships and maybe even some fellowships to help fund my Masters. I am also planning on working part-time during my graduate program on funded research projects.

IX. Graduate School
My future education plans are to finish my current Bachelors in Computer Science by this December. After my undergrad, I will pursue my Masters with a concentration in Art, Media, and Engineering and work on finishing that by 2021. During my Masters, I want to be conducting lots of education based research. I also want to be a part of the Master’s Opportunity for Research in Engineering.

X. Long-Term Professional Goals
When it comes to reading and understanding technical material I usually take my time. I am not a fast learner and when put into fast placed high pressure environments I do not perform to my best ability. I am capable of learning difficult concepts and applying that knowledge when I have sufficient time and flexibility. I do not communicate what I have learned nearly enough in my studies thus far. I know that this is a very important step in the learning process and it leads to a better understanding of concepts when you are able to explain or teach them to someone else. I plan on doing more of this in this future and with a younger audience perhaps. The next step for me really is to take my math, science, and engineering concepts I have learned to solve real-world problems. The application of coursework to real work is overwhelmingly crucial to professional success especially in S.T.E.M fields. I plan on being a leader to younger female minority engineers in the future. Most likely in a mentoring position through ASU.

I would also love to get involved in projects focused on increasing the number of female and minority students into S.T.E.M related fields. Many students shy away from programs involving engineering disciplines because they believe it is dull, difficult, and only achievable for certain groups of people. When developing my future career path my motivation will be to change the way students view S.T.E.M all together and provide opportunities to student who may not have had otherwise.

As I begin my first ventures into professional life, my goals are to develop my programming skills, communication skills, and money management skills. I plan on
refining my programming skills through lots of practice and real-world experience. My goal is to become a concise and professional programmer. I also aim to development my communication skills, for example my public speaking and writing skills as they pertain to the workplace. I hope to get more comfortable and well versed with practice and develop my own personal style. And lastly, I plan to develop my money management skills by taking financial planning courses and becoming a wise investor.

Personally, I hope to develop my communication skills, my ability to handle stressful situations, and my confidence. I often shy away from forming personal relationship and I would like to work on this in future by putting myself out there, be open and honest, and putting in the time and effort to form strong social bonds with people. Another personal characteristic I plan on developing throughout the years is my coping mechanisms. I tend to be anxious and overwhelmed quickly which can prevent me from taking on projects and relationships that I truly value. And lastly, I want to develop my self-confidence in both a professional and personal advantage point. Very often I do not give myself enough credit or thoroughly celebrate my successes. I want to be kinder to myself and take more pride in my wonderful qualities. Some professional skills I want to develop are application software development, learn and become proficient in several more programming languages, and take on more projects where I learn more skills I have not thought of yet. Personally, I want to participate in hobbies like yoga, painting, sewing, interior design, and party planning.

XI. Lifelong Learning
Education and lifelong learning is important to me because in this day in age pursuing higher education is a necessity for people seeking general success and security. And the role primary education plays in the path towards obtaining a degree is massive and vital. If technology and education could be integrated efficiently, it would have an abundance of positive effects on the general population. More students would have confidence in their abilities, a better relationship with learning, and more goals centered around higher education.

XII. Family Planning
When it comes to family planning I have put lots of thought into my goals for the future. I plan on dating for the next few years and then getting married. When I am dating I am looking for someone who is educated, driven, self-aware, honest, kind, thoughtful, financially secure, responsible, reliable, family-oriented, realistic, and genuine. I want them to have strong family values and morals that consist of leaving the earth a better place than when they arrived. I want someone who values kindness. I also look for someone with good communication skills that is open and honest with themselves and me about important subjects. But above everything I value someone who is constantly open to learning and never limits their potential by assuming they have all the answers.
Once I am married I want to start having kids when both my partner and I believe we are financially and emotionally ready. I plan on having at least three children by the time I am 33 so that they can be very close in age. I also want to have kids around the same time as both of my sisters so they can all grow up together. It is very important to me to be close with the whole family from the very beginning. When my partner and I make important decisions, I plan on having lengthy talks about all the pros and cons of each potential decision. I plan on asking for help from our family unit if need be and making decisions together as a team.

XIII. Travel Plans
Traveling is somewhat important to me. I do not have plans to travel the world and visit every country out there but I do want to experience other cultures with my family. I would love to visit New Zealand, Australia, Italy, and Paris one day in the next 10 years with my entire family. I do not plan on ever living overseas. I will be staying in Arizona to start my family and then taking trips throughout the years.

XIV. Investment Plans
My investment plan is to always be investing 10% of my salary. I have not done any research yet on what and with whom I would like to invest in but I know that when I start making money after I graduate I will start the process of investing. I would like to retire when I am around 60 years old so that does come into play when I am looking for potential career opportunities. I have to be looking for opportunities that allow me to effectively work towards my plan with confidence. I have to be aware of what I am agreeing to and it needs to be beneficial for me in the long run. I plan on taking some investment classes either online or in person. I also plan on doing my own research and investing in some qualified financial advisors.

XV. Contingency Plans
One back up plan I have is to become a freelance software developer. I could work from home and choose my hours which would be very helpful for when I start my family. Family is the most important thing to me in my life. Family is the reason for my great happiness and great stress and I enjoy every aspect of it. I know that my main job in life will be to be a mom. It is something I have always imagined for myself and it is the one thing I could not do without.

XVI. Philosophy of Life
My important values are children, family, sustainably, education, kindness, and honesty. The basic rules I will live by include the following. (1) Never stop learning. (2) Always practice patience. (3) Respect the earth, yourself, and others. (4) Be kind. (5) Be honest. (6) Be yourself. And (7) spread positivity and love. So, when bad times arrive or I am faced with uncertainty I let myself feel authentically and then I make a plan to solve the problem. There are no certainties in life. We are all doing our best with what the world has given us and we can always make a plan but sometimes things do not always go the way we want them to. And when this happens, I allow myself to feel the loss of my plan and then find peace as I make a new one.
XVII. References


