Michael Sykes

For as long as I can remember, I would go to my grandparents' house, Michael and Lois Renner-Lewis, to spend the weekends. While there I would spend time learning about all kinds of ways to use the computer.

I learned about how to look up information for school, sports, to build websites, and how to use social media to help rather than hurt. My grandfather worked as an IT consultant, professional, and engineer in many places. He took me on a tour of Kellogg's Corporation while working there and it was great to see how important his work was to the people who were employed there.

He showed me some ethics in working to satisfy your clients and how I should always "check back to see if everything is working properly".

I can't remember a time when my grandparents didn't present me with a method of how to work smarter and pursue opportunities that could advance me in the right direction for my future. I didn't use my time in high school to prepare myself for higher education, but they helped me to understand that I could achieve anything I worked hard for.

Two experiences that Michael Renner-Lewis gave me is when I participated in a small group of minority males at WMU for beginning coding and computer skills. Also, I worked alongside him at an electronics repair shop where I learned a lot about customer service and support. From there I eventually enrolled into an internship IT program. He has supported and mentored me throughout and I have continued to work with him and his students in Milo Coding Academy.