

## **GSU Alum turned GM Java Developer, Ketra King Is a Queen in the Driver's Seat of her IT Career**

By Danielle Wilcox

Ketra King, a 23-year-old native Atlantan, like most of us lives to do three things--eat, shop and sleep. She also shares a special affection for the field of information technology. For the past year she has been working at General Motors as a Java Developer. Recently she joined their recruiting team, which actually consist of IT professionals who onboard future team members.

Born and raised in East Point, GA, King always had an interest in technology. "When I was very young I enjoyed taking things apart. It was my first interest." Her parents fostered her interest in computers and technology. "My parents always bought me technical type of toys. I think that is where the computer part came in," said King.

"When I started at Georgia State University, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but I knew that I wanted to do something with computers so once I learned programming and new that I really liked it, I saw that this was the path that I wanted to go on." She worked at her local Kroger through college and last year became a graduate of the Computer Science program.

As a Java Developer King creates software but that is not the breath of her scope. She also spent her first 7 months working in data analytics at on the Data Management Team GM, which consist a lot of queries, SQL and I started learning to build data stages.

She admits that being a female a male-dominated field can at times be challenging, but "GM is very supportive of women in technology," she said.

GM has started a internal group for women in IT. It is open only to employees but it shows that GM has a strong commitment to bringing together women & acknowledging them as technology leaders. King is excited to join.

"GM is a great company, great benefits and all around is a good employer choice. When people think about GM they always think about the car part of it. This company is beyond manufacturing. We also do a lot of IT --and much more than that," said King.

They use a cluster team set up with new team members being assigned a mentor. The level of experience in each team ranges from fresh out of college to over 25 years experience. "Coming from college to corporate, their set up really helps fill that gap," said King.

GM will be recruiting on campus next at the University All Majors Career Fair on October 14<sup>th</sup>.