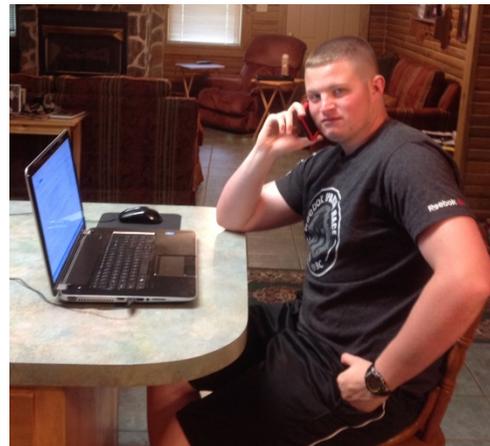


## **JARED POOLE'S 48 HOUR JOURNEY FROM STUDENT TO MICROSOFT APP DEVELOPER**

This past April, Dr. Rhonda Syler in the College of Business hosted a Microsoft Application Development Workshop for the third time in her two years with Louisiana Tech. The workshop is an application development workshop exclusively for Microsoft Windows 8 and Windows Phone apps. The students bring their own devices, and Microsoft supplies the software and instruction. The first night consists of an Install Mixer where the students become acquainted with the Microsoft representative and get help installing any software that will be needed for the workshop. Dr. Syler shared, "I usually have between 10-20 students who show up for it, and they have a blast. They need some programming



exposure because they jump in and work pretty quickly, but just the basics are usually enough. The workshop is very hands on and practical. Students gain skills to be able to publish apps in the store, and before they leave they've usually published at least one application to the store."

Computer Information Systems Freshman Jared Poole had a great experience at the workshop impressed Microsoft so much that they asked him to do a write up on his experience. After going back and forth about attending the workshop, Jared decided that it would be the best thing for his career, even though he was only enrolled in the introductory programming class. The very first day proved that Jared had made a great decision. He was immediately upgraded to Windows 8.1 and met Paul Decarlo, with whom he immediately hit it off. Once prerequisites were met, Jared got to work on his first application. He spent all day on it and at the end of the day, it was published and actually in the market. Overnight, this introductory level student acquired the skills to become a developer for windows phone, created an app, published it, and then saw it go live in the app store. Within two weeks, Jared's apps had hit 1000 downloads and a little over a month later, he had 39 apps in the Windows 8 store and 7 apps in the phone store. "I would wake up and the first thing I would do is check my apps progress and see how many more purchases I had...I couldn't believe how far I had come since the workshop," said Jared. "From there it got more and more crazy and in less than a month I have received thousands of downloads and it grows every day. I am so amazed [at] how quickly this is blowing up for me. Paul has stayed in contact with me and amps me up more and more every time we talk."



Jared was so excited and overwhelmed with his success he got his friends in on the action.

“He came over to my house one night and we sat down and I took him step by step through the entire app development process. He wrote every step down and constantly asked questions and we got his first app created and published on the store. I have never seen anyone so happy to see something he had created being published on the store. This made me feel incredibly good as the student had become the teacher. It has now been a little over a week since I helped him get started and since then he has published 25 apps in the store. Seeing him seize the opportunity just like I did is awesome. It makes me feel good to know I took what I learned, and gave this opportunity to someone else like Paul did for me. After a recent phone call from Paul I have now learned that every app I have created within the xplatform kit are available to publish to the phone store. I will seize this opportunity soon and get my apps from the windows 8 store onto the phone store and see how successful I can be there. This has been the most unique and amazing opportunity I have ever been presented in my life. The last 4 weeks have been incredible and this is just the beginning. A big thank you goes to Paul Decarlo for taking time to come out and work with us. I am very grateful for this opportunity. The sky is the limit with the amount of success I hope to achieve within the next days, weeks, months, or years.”

The demand for Computer Information Systems (CIS) graduates is growing exponentially and the opportunities are endless. To learn more about the CIS program, visit [www.cab.latech.edu/accounting](http://www.cab.latech.edu/accounting). Any individuals interested in the next Application Development Workshop should contact [Dr. Rhonda Syler](#) in the College of Business at 257-3859.