



# INFO - BITES

The Online Newsletter from Byte Back | December, 2011

## Table of Contents

[Student Spotlight: Nelson Bennett, Success Story](#)

[Instructor Spotlight: Katie Trizna, Changing Lives](#)

[BYTE BACK Welcomes:](#)

Jd Walter and Adnan Bokhari, Board Members

[Byte Back Welcomes:](#)

Tasiyiwa Mapondera, Director of Programs

## Student Spotlight: Nelson Bennett, Success Story



In early 2010, Nelson Bennett was drowning in debt and unemployed. Unable to find a job within his previous career path, Mr. Bennett decided to make a change and obtain new skills. After doing some research, he decided that Byte Back's A+ certification program was the best fit for him to expand on his novice, self-taught computer skills.

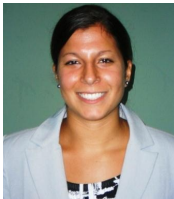
Mr. Bennett started his certification class and quickly distinguished himself as a star student. He believes his success has a lot to do with the friendly, tightknit and motivating atmosphere of Byte Back classes. During course sessions, he felt that he learned a great deal because his classmates shared his same drive and motivation. They learned together.

Mr. Bennett credits Byte Back with helping him to learn by offering more than a simple lecture-style class. He says that Byte Back offers a lot of hands-on instruction that helped him, and he believes he succeeded because his instructor presented the material in a number of different ways. By the end of the 90-hour class and 80-hour internship program, Mr. Bennett felt confident enough to seek employment.

He worked with Byte Back's Employment Specialist to craft his resume and post it online. Soon after, he received a phone call from an employer who saw his resume on the internet. He was offered a temporary to permanent position with the Library of Congress as a Support Desk Analyst. After three months, he was offered the full-time permanent position. Today, only a few months later, he earns \$20 an hour with full health, dental and vision coverage. He also receives travel and training certification reimbursement.

Mr. Bennett is happy to be the 'go to' guy in his current position because of his extensive skill in troubleshooting. In addition, he began paying off the debt incurred while he was unemployed. As for the future, his current employment requires him to obtain more certifications and Mr. Bennett says "Byte Back will be where I come... Byte Back changed my career path for the better. I am grateful for that."

## Instructor Spotlight: Katie Trizna, Changing Lives



In one of my PC for Beginners course, I built pretty noble relationships with most of my students, and they felt comfortable opening up to me and sharing some of their experiences and thoughts. Before class one day, one of my students shared that she was very happy to be enrolled in the course. She explained that before the course, she was in a depressed state. She was HIV positive, and never really left the couch. She said that her AIDS support group leader recommended the course at the very last minute, so she was frustrated that she was told about it in a rushed way. Initially, she was annoyed, mainly because she was told at the last minute, and had not received much information about what the course entailed. She explained to me that, in-time, she became very happy with her decision to enroll in the course, despite her initial frustrations. She said that she started focusing on her computer skills at home instead of just laying on the couch watching television. On one particular day, she came into class very excited because her typing skills had improved significantly since the first day of class when she could barely grasp the most basic typing techniques. (continued)

She eventually blossomed into a stellar student and even assisted other students throughout the remainder of the course. This conversation with my student made me realize the importance of the work that we are doing at Byte Back, and how it can impact someone's life in a way that allows them to make incredible changes that make their life better. Even if we are only reaching one student at a time, that is one life that we are impacting for the better in a way that might not have happened without this program.

—By *Katie Trizna, Volunteer Instructor*

## BYTE BACK Welcomes: Jd Walter and Adnan Bokhari, Board Members

Byte Back is pleased to welcome Jd Walter and Adnan Bokhari as the newest members of its Board of Directors. When Byte Back sounded the call for interested and capable candidates to fill open Board seats for a two-year term, Walter and Bokhari answered, and hit the ground running.



**Jd Walter** is a business management and organizational development consultant currently working with Eidolon Data LLC serving US Government customers. Prior to joining Eidolon, Jd worked in the Defense industry as both a consultant and active duty member of the US Navy. During the more than 17 years he has spent in the Federal market, Jd has served in a variety of capacities, including journalist, public affairs manager, media advisor, workforce development analyst, psychological operations campaign planner, operations measurement and evaluation chief, program manager, capture and business development manager and business process reengineering and strategic planning advisor. Of particular note, Jd used US Agency for International Development grant funding to build and staff several computer training centers in Baghdad, Iraq, for the purpose of enhancing the employability of displaced, undereducated and unemployed Baghdad residents.

Jd earned his undergraduate degree in English (literature) while serving on active duty, and completed his first master's degree in Management and Organization (human resource management) while deployed as a civilian contractor in support of Operation Iraq Freedom. Jd is currently completing coursework toward a second master's degree in Humanities, and has also earned a defense diploma in Communication Theory and Research while on active duty. He holds a current Emergency Management Technician certification from the Commonwealth of Virginia and previously volunteered with Virginia Defense Force's riverine search and rescue unit.

In addition to volunteering with Byte Back, Jd worked with the Friendship House in the District of Columbia tutoring disadvantaged elementary children and their parents in reading and has also participated in several Habitat for Humanity projects in Mississippi while on active duty.



**Adnan Bokhari** is the Corporation for Enterprise Development's (CFED) Chief Financial Officer, charged with guiding all aspects of the organization's fiscal operations, ensuring adherence to the highest standards of nonprofit financial management.

Adnan has over twelve years experience in nonprofit financial reporting, analysis, forecasting, budgeting, cash management, auditing and controls. He is a strategic thinker effective in reorganizing, streamlining, and strengthening financial operations to maximize efficiency with a proven track record of helping management and board achieve their organizational goals. His core competencies include: strategic & business planning, risk management, financial statements & management reporting, regulatory compliance, internal controls, budgeting and business development. (continued)

A rising leader in the profession, Adnan was recognized as one of the top CPAs in Washington, DC by SmartCEO Magazine in 2010. He recently served on the CPA Exam scoring panel of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, being one of the 40 panelists selected from across the nation. Adnan was one of 16 accountants from the Greater Washington Society of CPAs who testified in support of the CPA mobility legislation before DC Council members in June 2011. In addition to his participation in professional activities, Adnan is an active member of the community.

Byte Back welcomes Jd and Adnan with open arms. Welcome to the Byte Back family!

---

## Byte Back Welcomes: Tasiyiwa Mapondera, Director of Programs



Byte Back bade a heartfelt farewell to Debony Heart, Byte Back's longest-standing staff member until her departure in September of 2011. Ms. Heart left big shoes to fill, so after hundreds of applications, numerous interviews and careful selection, Byte Back chose Ms. Tasiyiwa Mapondera to take on the role as Director of Programs.

Tasiyiwa Mapondera comes to Byte Back from the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), a trade association serving the digital code and content industry. As SIIA's Education Division Manager, Tasiyiwa worked closely with ed tech software developers, on a variety of initiatives that support the use of technology in education.

Tasiyiwa brings with her, a diverse background including nonprofit program management, public relations and communications, fundraising, and administration. Tasiyiwa's work at the International Economic Development Council, Women Empowered Against Violence and the National Association of People With AIDS, made extensive use of her skills in relationship management and partnership development, which she will bring to bear in her new role.

At Byte Back, Tasiyiwa will oversee all programs including computer literacy classes, Microsoft Office training, IT certification programs, internships, mentoring, tutoring, case management, career counseling and job placement. Tasiyiwa will also manage relations with Byte Back's network of nonprofit and government agency partners, in addition to guiding the activities of Byte Back's Communications team to spread the word about the many fine programs Byte Back provides to underserved communities in the DC metro region.

Tasiyiwa is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Political Science.

If you would like to contact Tasiyiwa for program information, please send your request with subject line: Program Information Request to [tmapondera@byteback.org](mailto:tmapondera@byteback.org)

---

## Volunteer Opportunities

*"Volunteering is the most effective means to give back to your community, and to continue to develop the human spirit."*

—Ted Frazier, volunteer instructor

Byte Back is always eager to take on volunteers. Whether you're a student or a participant in a service learning program, or a student or alumnus who wants to stay connected with us, volunteering is an excellent way to stay in touch with our community and help us bridge the digital divide.

If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Byte Back Director of Volunteer Services Eleanor Grewal at [egrewal@byteback.org](mailto:egrewal@byteback.org) or (202) 529-3395.

## About Byte Back

Founded in 1997, Byte Back seeks to improve economic opportunity in the Washington, D.C. area by providing computer literacy and job training for disadvantaged communities. Byte Back offers courses ranging from basic computer literacy to Microsoft Office to internationally recognized computer certification preparation. Byte Back is licensed by the DC Educational Licensure Commission as a Postsecondary Educational Institution.

## Employment Opportunities

### Job Title: Entry-level Field Technician

Job Description:

- PC Hardware (laptops and desktops) break-fix service at various customer locations
- Installing, maintaining and servicing PCs at customer sites
- Drive 350-500 miles/week on average between customer locations

Required Skills:

- PC hardware support
- A+ Certified
- Strong customer service skills
- Must own a vehicle

Interested candidates should email resumes to [rwaisburd@byteback.org](mailto:rwaisburd@byteback.org).

### Job Title: Senior IT Security Engineer

Find job description and qualifications by clicking the link below:

[Click Here](#)

Please send resume in MS WORD format to [jobs@korenti.com](mailto:jobs@korenti.com)

