See if we can share the slides w/ everyone

Recording Link:
https://umbc.webex.com/umbc/ldr.php?RCID=159ddf7db68112d4e0f4f583bb5487de

Guest Speaker - Patrick McLoughlin
Feel free to reach out to Pat through:
- Email: pat.mcloughlin@maryland.gov
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrick-mcloughlin-572b5140/

<u>Background Information</u>
- Chief data officer for MD
  - Helps provide strategic direction and standardize data management across all executive branches in MD (e.g. Department of Transportation)
  - Sets frameworks to get everyone following the same standard practices
- Studied Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Meteorology
- Found an interest in using data to draw objective conclusions
- Worked in private sector and state government

<u>Presentation Overview</u>
- Strategies for launching your career
  - What a career path looks like
  - How to set yourself up
  - What networking looks like
- Tech as a career choice
- Value of strong communication
  - Written, Oral, Listening

<u>Strategies For Launching Your Career</u>
- Be honest with yourself
  - Evaluate your personal strengths and values then align this with what you want to do
  - TED Talk: https://youtu.be/UN79-Tv5GHY
  - Consider life experience (internships, job experience, projects, etc)
  - Consider motivations → What do you want to get out of your work experience?
  - Utilize Career Center assessment resources
    - Link to Career Planning: https://careers.umbc.edu/students/discover/self/
- Develop a plan
  - Lay out SMART goals to establish a realistic roadmap
- Build a network
  - Still look at job postings but also leverage your network
  - Network can consist of friends, family, other students, ISSA, etc
  - Look to your network for connections to companies
  - Tips to build network

- - - LinkedIn - professional networking platform
      - Don't be afraid to reach out to people you don't know (e.g. industry experts)
    - Broadcast your interests
    - Get involved in your community
    - Find mentors - professors, industry mentorships
    - Participate in campus clubs and activities
  - Use university resources
    - MD state departments have internship positions - MIIC program
      - MIIC Application: https://mtip.umbc.edu/employers/apply/miic/
      - Opportunities to work on high-profile projects
    - Resume building → schedule appointment with Career Center
    - Go to career fairs
    - Ealy job searches and internships lead to good jobs
  - Take personal initiative
    - Step up, put yourself out there, and know it's okay to fail

Tech as a Career Choice
- Often working in agile teams developing innovative solutions for various projects
- Work has gotten more remote and flexible
  - Companies seek to maximize their teams' capabilities by letting them work the hours that work best for the teams
- Wide variety of IS-related jobs and certifications out there that lead to competitive and high-paying salaries
- AWS Certification Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-O9tnTuDb0

Value of Strong Communication
- Write in a way that your targeted audience will understand
  - Often don't need to get overly technical
- Oral communication
  - Consider your presentation skills when planning your career path but also keep in mind that it's beneficial to practice and strengthen oral communication skills
- Strong listening skills
  - What user says they want may not provide what they need
  - Be able to understand user specifications and recognize the unasked questions to ultimately deliver what user needs