<u>**Interview Assessment 1: Ryan Eggleston**</u>

Name of Professional: Ryan Eggleston

Profession: Software Development

Company: Form.io

Date of Interview: November 6th, 2023

Assessment:

Earlier this month I was able to set up my first interview with a software engineer and AI enthusiast, Ryan Eggleston. Mr. Eggleston is a software engineer at Form.io and a founder of promptengineers.ai. Coming from a background in computers, Mr. Eggleston found an early interest in tech and marketing through working with his father. This interest then inspired him to pursue his software career not through college, but through YouTube University: Learning everything necessary on the very accessible media site YouTube. His story to success was very inspiring and motivating, as although I had heard about successful individuals pursuing Youtube University, I was never able to meet an individual until now. He delivered his viewpoints on the school system and gave me an honest and memorable perspective of success in the tech industry. He created the analogy that when applying for a job, all past experiences and scholarly life is neglected; only the ability to create something meaningful for the company is taken into account.

This knowledge explored is very crucial for me to take into consideration, as I now have two paths laid out: One where I go to college and network and get a degree to go to an entry-level position or one where I start that entry-level position sooner and begin to work my way up the labor ladder.

In addition to this lesson and his background, I asked him what route I should take in order to increase my understanding of code. He first taught me some unfamiliar terms; the most discussed being: What is an API? (**A**pplication **P**rogramming **I**nterface is a software with a

distinct function of connecting two apps together). He recommended that with my past knowledge in learning Java, I should advance to JavaScript, another programming language. Using Javascript, he recommended that I get used to using some very popular software development tools: Tailwind CSS framework, more specifically creating a react application. As I was unaware of a lot of basics, he then taught me that there were different types of APIs; exposing me to a REST API which could be built using express javascript (Rest API is used to build web design). He then recommended that after this, I should just practice the skills learned and apply them in multiple ways; following what I was intrinsically motivated to do in order to not lose interest or get bored.

I am very thankful for his time and ability to share this knowledge, as he has laid a roadmap that I can follow in order to understand my subject at the best of my ability. After the call and in the following weeks, I have taken his advice to heart and have progressed in my programming knowledge; learning Javascript express to the best of my ability: creating simple local host web applications with Get and Post Requests.

In addition to this surplus of life advice and software development tips, he was able to invite me to a networking event where multiple like-minded people were going to meet and converse on tech-related topics. This opportunity will serve me the chance to not only network myself and expose myself to more professionals, but it will also give me the opportunity to experience a work environment: as pitch presentations will be hosted as part of the event.