

# Jack Hemion

**City and state:** Seattle, WA

**High school attended:** Lakes High School

**Graduation year:** 2009

**Colleges attended/degrees earned:**

- Bachelor of Science in information technology from Western Governor's University
- Attended Aston University in Birmingham, England



**Current career/job:**

Cloud Support Engineer with Amazon Web Services.

**Describe the path you took from high school graduation to where you are today:**

I went straight from high school to study abroad in England and then came back to the United States to finish my studies at an online university. During that time, I took an internship with Corbis, a business that specializes in creative licensing. Several months after my studies ended, I was approached by Amazon to work with their Amazon Web Services cloud and customers all around the world.

**How did your experiences in Clover Park School District help prepare you for this path?**

Clover Park School District's math courses – although they did not have a direct impact on my path – were essential just for the logic aspect of it. I don't use heavy math in my day to day activities, but like math, IT problems can be a heavily logical process, much like solving a math problem.

**Who was the most influential teacher or administrator to you as a student in the district? Why?**

Ben Keller. He was the only teacher I had for four straight years at Lakes, and for multiple classes. His method of teaching – teaching 64 kids or more at the same time effectively – was just about the best thing I could have hoped for as a student. He was kind, knowledgeable and one of the best people that could have possibly taught the subject anywhere.

**Do you have any favorite memories from when you attended school in Clover Park School District?**

Choir! You haven't quite lived until you sing with an award-winning choir that Lakes is known for. It's quite surreal.

**What opportunities exist in your career sector for new graduates? Is post-secondary education required for this field?**

Technical fields in Seattle always have spaces to be filled, although most often you will find that programming positions tend to have the most of those spaces. Although I got my position with Amazon through university recruiting, surprisingly, information technology does not require a post-secondary education. It does however require a lot of free time, as employers want to see practical expertise in your field, not the fact you have done a ton of studying to get your degree. It helps to have a degree certainly, but some of the smartest people I now know have nothing more than a high school diploma and an impressive repertoire of IT skills under their belt.