



# Alex Bohl

## CenturyLink | Senior Lead Technical Project Manager

**2009 Graduate, Computer Information Systems**

**Home Town: Bossier City, LA**

**Additional Degrees: Pursuing a MBA at La Tech**

### **Why did you choose CIS as your major?**

I was fortunate to receive great advice my freshman year to take Tech's career development class offered through the career center. I knew I always had a connection to technical subjects, but I didn't know which degree would be best. Through identifying my personality and learning about the opportunities different degrees present, CIS was a perfect fit.

### **Did you do an internship? If so, how did that help you prepare for your career?**

I interned with CenturyLink during my senior year. Interning prior to starting at CenturyLink gave me an opportunity to validate that I was ready to work in a professional setting, prove myself to my new team, and confirm that CenturyLink was the right company for me. I feel that the impressions made and relationships built during my internship have a direct correlation to the success I've had so far at CenturyLink.

### **Describe your career path since graduating and what you are doing now.**

I've been with CenturyLink for 5 years. For four years, I was an SAP developer supporting internal business functions such as Human Resources, Finance, Supply Chain, and Project Systems. Through CenturyLink's rapid expansion from acquisitions, my vocal desire to grow, and my patient management team, I was given leadership roles on various integrations and upgrades, as well as, taking an active role in college recruiting for our IT organization. These experiences challenged me to learn rapidly and rise to the occasion. Last year I accepted and transitioned to a project manager role supporting CenturyLink's CIO. I work directly with the CIO and his direct reports managing anything and everything needed to help make the CIO more effective in his role. I'm also pursuing my MBA at Louisiana Tech and will graduate in the Summer of 2014.

### **Looking back, what were some of the most valuable classes/experiences while you were at Tech?**

After a year of working I had a very memorable realization that the foundational knowledge I gained in information technology and business and the ability I gained in college to learn on my own was vital to my ability to survive and thrive in the working world. This might not be the case for every graduate, but I feel every class was valuable because it changed the way I think. Thinking from a marketing or financial perspective has at times been just as important as thinking from a technical perspective. How I spent my time outside of the classroom has also turned out to be very valuable. I was involved in organizations like AITP and the Wesley Foundation. Those outlets helped me learn to communicate and understand myself and others.

### **If you could go back and do your undergraduate years over again, is there anything you would do differently?**

I would begin trying to get an internship my freshman year. I didn't know it at the time, but many companies want interns early in their academic career so that they can help shape them. Go to the career fair and apply online to internships at every company you feel is doing interesting work. Even if you only talk to recruiters at the fair or have an interview, you learn and get more comfortable with every interaction.