

## Dolapo Sekoni

### A Nigerian immigrant updates her Canadian credentials and pursues her passion for cybersecurity.

Even before she considered formal training in the field, Dolapo Sekoni was a passionate cybersecurity advocate, determined to help her friends and family protect themselves on the internet. Her mission was personal. In her native Nigeria, she'd been a victim of cybercrime herself, and she knew of many others in her community who'd fallen prey to email scams and other hacker schemes. Formal training was a natural next step that combined her professional background — which includes a degree in computer science and four years of systems management experience in Nigeria — with her passion for helping people. She has big ambitions for her career. “It’s my mission to see a cybercrime-free world,” she says.

### Navigating the Canadian job market

Dolapo enrolled in XTAP’s bootcamp on the heels of graduating from the cybersecurity program at Seneca College. At the time, she felt confident in her technical skills but was struggling on the job market despite being qualified for the positions she was applying for. As a recent immigrant new to the Canadian hiring process, she was unfamiliar with application and interview expectations, which were often different from Nigerian recruitment practices.



XTAP’s career services, including resume and interview coaching, helped her understand the cultural differences that might be holding her back so she can better communicate her expertise to employers. “One of the good things XTAP has done for me is to help me know my worth — to know who I am and be bold about it. Cybersecurity is what I love, and I know that it’s a career I’ll do very well in.”

## “The sky is big enough for all of us to fly”

Through Lighthouse Lab’s industry-leading curriculum and tech mentorship, Dolapo deepened her understanding of the advanced tools and techniques of threat detection, prevention, response and remediation, including her cloud security skills. Her participation in the program is part of her general commitment to continuous learning and upskilling. “I don’t like sitting on the couch,” she says. “Learning is something I’m very passionate about, because the bad guys aren’t sitting down. They’re learning new things — new ways to defraud people, to scam people. We have to stay ahead of the adversary.”

Dolapo is married with two kids, and she credits her drive to her family and her passion for supporting and uplifting people. “I want to be remembered for the number of people I’ve been able to help. I believe the sky is big enough for all of us to fly.”

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