Besufekad Desta

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EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University   Richmond, VA
B.S. in Computer Science | GPA: 3.7   Expected: May 2027

COURSEWORK

Data Structures & Algorithms | Software Engineering | Discrete Structures | Computer Organization | Linear Algebra

SKILLS

Languages: Java | Python | JavaScript | PHP | HTML | CSS | Typescript | PostgreSQL | C/C++
Frameworks: Flask | NextJS | React | Node.js | Express.js | Angular | Spring boot
Software: Git | VS Code | Intellij | Eclipse | github | Microsoft Office | Excel | WordPress

WORK EXPERIENCE

EcoMed - Hack4Good Hackathon | *VCU Department of Computer Science*   Jan 2025 - Present
- Collaborated with a team of three to develop EcoMed, a web application that provides eco-friendly remedies.
- Earned 3rd place at VCU's Hack4Good Hackathon, showcasing innovation in health and sustainability.
- Built using Flask, Python, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, integrating an AI chatbot to suggest health solutions.
- Integrated OpenAI's API with a Flask backend to generate personalized, AI-driven health recommendations.

Computer Science Teaching Assistant | *VCU College of Engineering*   Jan 2025 - Present
- Assist 55 students across two sections in understanding core object-oriented programming concepts.
- Provide one-on-one and group support through coding exercises, debugging assistance, and conceptual explanations.
- Collaborate with instructors to enhance course content and improve student learning outcomes.
- Conduct review sessions and develop instructional materials to reinforce key programming principles.

Residential Assistant | *Gladding Residence Center*   Jul 2024 - Present
- Oversee a community of 36 residents, ensuring their well-being and building a supportive living environment.
- Developed educational programs focusing on personal development topics such as study skills and time management.
- Organized and executed impactful programs, including the Fall Festival, which attracted over 350 students and connected them to essential campus resources.

PROJECTS

Balanced Delimeter File Scanner   Nov 2024
- Developed a Java program that analyzes HTML files to verify the balance of opening and closing tags.
- Designed and implemented a custom stack data structure to manage the storage of delimiters.

Math Expression Parser   Oct 2024
- Designed and implemented a binary tree-based parser in Java to evaluate expressions with an in-order traversal.
- Supported operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division ensuring correct order of operations.

Portfolio Website   Oct 2024
- Designed and developed a personal website to showcase projects, skills, and technical expertise.
- Built and optimized the website using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, ensuring functionality.
- Implemented responsive design principles, including mobile-first strategies, flexbox layouts, and CSS media queries for seamless user experience across devices.

LEADERSHIP

Computer Science Advisory Board, VCU   Jan 2025 - Present
Developing Men of Color IT Committee, VCU   Aug 2024 - Present

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

National Society of Black Engineers, VCU   Aug 2024 - Present
RamDev, VCU   Aug 2024 - Present