

Everett Richards

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Objective

Right Now: PhD in Computer Science.

After PhD: A full-time research position in applied intelligent transportation and/or robotics.

Education

San Diego State University

BS Computer Science & BS Applied Mathematics, 4.0 GPA

San Diego, CA

Aug 2023–May 2026 (expected)

Research Experience

Research Assistant – San Diego State University

Advisor: Xiaobai Liu (Machine Vision and Perception Lab)

Aug 2025–Present

San Diego, CA

- Reproduced the π_0 Vision Language Action (VLA) model to transform language commands into executable trajectories, especially for out-of-distribution tasks
- Developing a simulation environment in RoboSuite—a robot learning platform built upon the MuJoCo physics engine—to train and evaluate RoboChef, an AI-powered cooking robot.

NSF Research Fellow – Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Advisor: Ziming Zhang (Vision, Intelligence, and System Lab)

May–Aug 2025

Worcester, MA

- Conducted robustness evaluations through targeted injection of Gaussian noise into 3D LiDAR point clouds, simulating sensor degradation due to low-resolution sensors and adverse weather conditions.
- Proposed and empirically validated a novel noise-aware training curriculum, achieving up to a 40% improvement in model robustness under challenging real-world scenarios.
- Resulting paper accepted at MIT URTC 2025.

NSF Research Fellow – UC San Diego

Advisor: Hao Su (SU Computer Vision Lab)

Sept 2024–June 2025

San Diego, CA

- Conducted experiments on the impact of Gaussian noise injection in robotic imitation learning models.
- Achieved statistically significant R^2 values between 0.91 and 0.99, supporting my argument that Gaussian noise induces a sigmoidal performance decay curve.
- Resulting paper accepted at MIT URTC 2025.

NSF Research Fellow – University of Delaware

Advisor: Lena Mashayekhy (Intelligent Edge Systems Lab)

June–Aug 2024

Newark, DE

- Developed and validated two algorithms to improve object detection accuracy in autonomous vehicles.
- Achieved up to 70% accuracy improvement over legacy methods, validated on a four-robot testbed.
- Presented paper at the IEEE World Congress on Services 2025 in Helsinki, Finland.

Publications

- **E. Richards**, L. Dai, “Modeling Imitation Learning Robustness to Noisy Demonstrations via Sigmoid Degradation,” 2025 IEEE MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference (URTC), Cambridge, MA, 2025.
- **E. Richards**, A. Lopez, J. Morales, Z. Zhang, “From Chaos to Clarify: Strengthening 3D Collaborative Autonomous Vehicle Perception with Noise-Aware Training,” 2025 IEEE MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference (URTC), Cambridge, MA, 2025.
- **E. Richards**, B. Thapa and L. Mashayekhy, ”Edge-Enabled Collaborative Object Detection for Real-Time Multi-Vehicle Perception,” 2025 IEEE International Conference on Edge Computing and Communications (EDGE), Helsinki, Finland, 2025, pp. 13-22, doi: 10.1109/EDGE67623.2025.00011.

Instructional Experience

Tutor , Mathematics & Computer Science SDSU Math and Science Learning Center (MSLC)	Aug 2024–May 2025 San Diego, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tutored students in computer science (Java, Python, data structures, algorithms), mathematics (calculus, discrete math, real analysis), and physics.Participated in professional development workshops to enhance tutoring skills.Certified Level 1 Tutor by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).	
Instructional Assistant , Discrete Mathematics SDSU Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics – Instructor: Vadim Ponomarenko	Jan 2024–May 2025 San Diego, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led weekly office hours for ten groups of 6 to 8 students, covering proof techniques, recursion, and boolean algebra.Developed and discussed weekly focus exercises to reinforce key topics.	

Leadership Experience

Vice Chair , CTRL @ SDSU Coalition of Tech Representatives and Leadership (CTRL) at SDSU	May 2025–Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Served on a board of leaders from various Computer Science student organizations at SDSU.Represented CTRL at CS faculty and Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meetings.Director of the 2026 CTRL Student Project Showcase, Co-Director of the biannual ACM+CTRL Hackathon, and Committee Member for the 2026 CTRL E-Waste Drive.	
AS Representative Associated Students of San Diego State University (AS SDSU)	May 2025–Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Represent the College of Sciences on the University Council.Oversee financial appropriations for a non-profit with over \$45,000,000 in annual revenue.	
President , ACM @ SDSU Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Chapter at SDSU	Apr 2024–Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secured \$2,500 sponsorship from Google to fund events and initiatives.Presented 10+ workshops on topics like machine learning, web development, and version control.Hosted the “Innovate 4 SDSU” Hackathon in April 2025, in which 80+ students competed to develop apps that improve student life at SDSU.	
CSSC Representative SDSU College of Sciences Student Council (CSSC)	Aug–Dec 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oversaw financial appropriations, community service, and academic events within the College of Sciences.Planned, implemented, and secured more than \$1,500 to fund the STEM Karaoke Night series.	

Awards and Honors

Academic Awards:	Scholarships:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cert. of Excellence in Advanced Programming Languages, World Computing Organization (2025)AP Scholar with Distinction, College Board (2023)National Merit Commended Scholar (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">George A. Hansen Scholarship (2025)Deloitte Foundation Scholarship (2024)Mensa Foundation Scholarship (2024)Intuit STEM Scholarship (2023)

Skills and Strengths

Technical Skills:	Professional Skills:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deep learning with TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch, OpenCVData analysis with NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, and Scikit-learnComputer vision, including CNNs & deep learningComputer networking and edge computingTheoretical and applied mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research, literature review, and technical writingPublic speaking and presentationsLeadership and organizational managementTutoring and mentoringDrafting LaTeX documentsPublishing papers in reputable journals