



## Kenneth Lance Howard

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### EDUCATION

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**North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University**  
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; **3.72 / 4.0 GPA**

Greensboro, NC  
Expected May 2025

**Fayetteville Technical Community College**  
Associates of Science

Fayetteville, NC  
May 2021

### TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

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**Proficient:** C++, Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, VS Code, NetBeans, Eclipse, SQL, Swift, Node.js, Jenkins, Linux, LLMs, RAG, a diverse array of API's and microservices, PyCharm

**Skills & interests:** Machine Learning, Frontend, Data Structures, Algorithms, OS, Services, Flutter Networking, Git, Digital Media, SQL, Backend, AI development, Data Science, Scripting, Kubernetes, R

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Sandia National Laboratories**  
Computer Science R&D

Albuquerque, NM  
May 2024 - Present

- Conducting research and development initiatives to enhance national security, focusing on the creation and implementation of advanced algorithms for data analysis and system resilience
- Furthered the integration of **Large Language Models (LLMs)**, **Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) models**, and **full-stack development** to innovate secure AI-driven software systems
- **Fostered collaboration with cross-functional teams to design, develop, and deploy clean and efficient software solutions** tailored to operational needs

### PROJECTS

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#### Full Stack Application Development

• **Completed large Java projects with front and back-end design** using **Eclipse**, **OOP**, **test cases**, and **Jenkins** to manage databases. Built **React**, **React Native**, and **Python applications with APIs and scripting** for efficient, modern services. Ensured real-time updates and a seamless user experience through team collaboration, or self-interest.

#### Vector Database Model Using LLMs for AI Queries

• **With Sandia Developed a vector database model using a Large Language Model (LLM) to enhance AI-driven queries and data retrieval.** Integrated the model with Genesys and various microservices and APIs, optimizing the system for scalability and performance while collaborating with cross-functional teams to refine the architecture.

#### Capital One Custom AI Assistance Hackathon

- **Led the development and deployment of an AI assistant**, securing 1st place by leveraging my expertise in **LLMs**, **frameworks**, and **software engineering principles**.
- Designed and implemented contextual responses, data retention, and structured insights using **Streamlit** and **Docker** for scalability.
- Applied advanced **AI techniques and system design strategies**, further refining these skills in my undergraduate research.

### EXTRACURRICULARS & AWARDS

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- **Member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) at NC A&T Fall 2023-2025**
- **Gen AI Certified with Dell, Placed in Deutsche Bank Hackathon**
- **Dean's List NC A&T Spring 2024**
- **Member of the NCSU AI Club Fall 2021-2022**
- **North Carolina A&T Hackathon**
  - *1st Place Fall 2023 & 1st Place Spring 2023 & 1st place Fall 2024*
- **Computer Science Honors Award NC A&T 2024**
- **Computer Science course TA NC A&T Spring 2024**
- **Member of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) & SHPE Fall 2024**