SITARAH ALI

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EDUCATION

Northern Illinois University – *Dekalb, Illinois*   Expected graduation: May 2027
Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering, Minor in Electrical Engineering
3.97 GPA
- Honors: University Honors Program
- Relevant coursework: Engineering Mechanics I, Programming for Mechatronics, Computer Engineering I, Engineering Circuit Analysis, Signals and Systems, Engineering Mechanics II, Engineering Graphics

EXPERIENCE

NIU - Department of Physics – *Dekalb, Illinois*   January 2024 – May 2024
Learning Assistant
- Improved comprehension for 7+ students weekly in Physics 253 , helping master core mechanics concepts by explaining lecture material they struggled with and demonstrating practice problems.
- Contributed to course effectiveness through collaborating with Professor and fellow Learning Assistants in weekly meetings, providing and implementing feedback.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

NIU Robotics Club – *Dekalb, Illinois*   October 2023 – Ongoing
Club Member
- Collaborated with the club team in weekly build sessions (1-2x/week) to assemble components, maintaining progress toward competition deadlines.
- Assembled, soldered, and/or wired various mechanical and electrical components for 2 battlebot projects by actively listening to project leaders and ensuring all details of instructions were followed.

Programming for Mechatronics - Semester Group Project – *Dekalb, Illinois*   August 2024 – December 2024
Group Member
- Achieved an A and concluded semester project before the deadline by meeting with and collaborating with team members every 1–2 weeks.
- Adapted and utilized a new programming language and IDE, BlocklyProp, over 4 months, following documentation found online and provided by course Professor.
- Designed and illustrated the team logo in a day, collaborating with and receiving feedback from group members.
- Programmed a line-following robot that met project's requirements using Propeller microcontrollers and QTI infrared emitter/receiver modules from the ActivityBot 360 kit.

The Braven Accelerator – *Dekalb, Illinois*   January 2025 – May 2025
Fellow
- Developed workforce skills such as leadership, operating and managing, communicating and networking, working in teams, and problem solving by completing a 14-week leadership and professional development course.
- Designed a career roadmap by engaging in a 7-step process that required self-assessment and reflection, as well as role investigation and evaluation to determine the steps required to achieve career goals.
- Crafted and delivered a first-place final presentation that presented key recommendations by co-leading the deck design for a user-centered solution by synthesizing insights from empathy interviews.

Honors & Awards: NIU Merit Scholarship (December 2022), Tyler Dow Scholarship Fund (March 2024, March 2025), NIU Dean's List (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024), Braven Capstone Challenge Winner (April 2025)
Skills & Interests: Soldering, Digital Illustration, Graphic Design
Programming Languages: C++, SQL
Software: Windows 10, Windows 11, VSCode, Dev C++, Google Workspace, Microsoft Excel, SolidWorks