



## Skills

C#, C, Unity, OpenXR, Unreal Engine, AR Foundation, Figma, Curriculum Development, Educational Technology Evaluation, Python, Java, Lua, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Procreate, Photoshop, Blender 3D, Maya, Miro, Gimp, Rhino 3D, Qualitative Research Methodologies, Usability Testing

## Education

### Iowa State University

(Aug 2023 - May 2025)

**M.Sc. Human-Computer Interaction (GPA: 4.0),**  
Communications and Events Coordinator,  
HCI Student Organization

### University of Wisconsin - Madison

(Sept 2018 - May 2023)

**B.Sc. Computer Science (GPA: 3.492),**  
Certificate in Art: 4D-Digital, Time-based, Performative  
or Social Practice

## Volunteering

### Volunteer Intern (Unreal Engine, Blender)

(May 2025 - Present)

Boundless Gamers  
"It's a Conspiracy!"

## Publications

(Accepted) P. Aragula, A. Gali, and K. Zarecor. 2025. **Promoting Collaboration and Empathy in an Arts-Based STEM Engagement Pilot with K-12 Tribal Students.** *In Creativity and Cognition (C&C '25), June 23–25, 2025, Virtual, United Kingdom. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages.* <https://doi.org/10.1145/3698061.3734389>

## Honors

### Research Poster Awards

HCI 20th Anniversary Event : Iowa State

- Created a research poster to share our gamified learning environment.
- Won 3/5 awards: Best Interdisciplinary Collaboration, 2nd Place; Best Professional Presence, 2nd Place; People's Choice, 3rd Place.

### HCI Fellowship, 2023-2024

Funded by Iowa State University

- Awarded as part of my admission to Iowa State University as a Master's student in Human-Computer Interaction.
- Receive a stipend and 50% tuition waiver, which supports my ability to perform research while attending university.

### WISCERS Program, Cohort 2020-2021

Partially funded by the Google exploreCSR award

- Supporting students from historically underrepresented groups in computing to pursue research careers. Admitted as one of 19 students out of over 80 applicants.
- Worked as an Undergraduate Research Intern over the summer as part of my admission to this program.

## Research/Professional Experience

### Graduate Research Assistant, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

[Project 1: Leveraging Gamified XR Environments for Cybersecurity Education](#)

(Aug 2023 - May 2025)

- Working with two multidisciplinary teams of 6 to develop 2 different VR games for rural students: 1 game to teach Cybersecurity concepts, and 1 game to teach Circuitry using Figma, Unity, OpenXR and Blender.
- Creating questionnaires and organized on-site visits to conduct semi-structured interviews with teachers and students.

[Project 2: UI/UX Design for Simulations of Points Clouds](#)

(Dec 2023 - March 2024)

- Developed icons, designs and wireframes for UI design of an Unreal Engine application using point-clouds to recreate environments in digital formats.
- Used Gimp and Procreate to create icon packs for buttons, selection tools. Prototyped wireframes using Figma.

[Project 3: Camera Calibration & Unreal Engine Development](#)

(March 2024 - September 2024)

- Designed and implemented UI on a team of 3 for a camera-calibration app using pyQT, pyQTGraph, Unreal Engine and Python.
- Designed three Unreal Engine scenes using open scene packs to test lighting for an LED Wall for filming.
- Participated in on-site visits to evaluate and document user needs.

### Summer REU Graduate Mentor, SPIRE - EIT

(May 2024 - August 2024)

- Mentored multiple REU teams to help develop and deploy VR gamified apps to completion.
- Taught 9 REU interns about the fundamentals of Blender, Unity and OpenXR tools to inform the creation of their larger research projects.

### Undergraduate Researcher, WiNGs Lab

(Sept 2022 - Aug 2023)

- Created an Augmented Reality interface to improve accessibility of the Arduino Interface for K-12 students with dyslexia, using ARFoundation, OpenCV, Unity and C#.
- Incorporated Open Dyslexic font and Speech-To-Text/ Text-to-Speech packages to improve accessibility.
- Performed user study with IRB approval, conducted 1 pilot session and 7 semi-structured interviews, transcribed interviews, and coded research data using Nvivo.

### Programs/ Curriculum Specialist, MAYDM

(Sept 2021 - Aug 2023)

- Developed curriculum in the form of presentations, notes, code skeletons and worksheets for 2 summer programs ranging between 3 - 6 weeks in duration, which was delivered to over 170 students.
- Delivered 3 after-school programs ranging from day-long workshops to 8 - 10 weeks in duration to introduce students to coding fundamentals.
- Tested content with current students to ensure curriculum matched learning expectations.

### Programs Lead Instructor, MAYDM

(2020 - 2022)

- Worked closely as Program Lead with a team of 2 - 5 to deliver curriculum and content to 15 - 30 talented middle-school girls and youth of color, per program.
- Subjects taught include: **App Development using Figma, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript; AR/VR Development using CoSpaces.io; 3D Modeling using Blender and TinkerCAD; Introductory Programming using micro:bits, meow:bits, Sphero:Bots; Robotics using Hummingbird:bit and Raspberry Pi.**