Alena Dasha Peethala

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SUMMARY

High school senior planning to pursue an interdisciplinary field combining technology, computer science and society. Passionate about technological justice and advocacy and creating a space for youth voice in the realm of AI ethics and policy, exploring the intersections between Artificial Intelligence, computing, and ethics for societal good. Prior experience with coding in Swift, HTML, CSS, and Python.

EDUCATION

International School of Beaverton | IB Diploma Candidate   Expected June 2025
- Relevant Coursework: IB Biology HL, IB Analysis and Approaches SL, CIS121 (dual credit), IB Language and Literature HL (View transcript here)
- Completing Extended Essay (independent research paper, IB Diploma requirement) on algorithmic risk assessments in the criminal justice system and their ethical and legal implications. Combining Information Technology & Global Politics as my subject concentrations.

EXPERIENCE

Intern |Portland State University, Maseeh College of Engineering/CS   May. 2024 - Present

- Working in the ECE department of PSU at the Teuscher Lab
- Developing a deep learning model (convolutional neural network) for resume analysis with Python (tensorFlow, keras, and scikit-learn)
- Apart of the altREU editorial team (plagiarism checking team)
- Writing book chapter to be published in 2024 summer proceedings project, on PDXScholar and Amazon book with other lab interns on my project

Co-Director of Policy (2022), Exec. Director (May 2024-Present) | Encode Justice Oregon Chapter   Jun. 2023 - Present

- 1 of 3 student presenters for Oregon's first AI Empowered EDU conference, co-hosted by NWRESD, Clackamas ESD, and Multnomah ESD.
- Presented to 25+ educators and administrators on the importance of youth voice in AI policy and implementation in K-12 education.
- Drafted a policy framework voicing the student perspective on AI implementation in the classroom. Used this framework to form connections with 15+ individuals from various community and state organizations, including BSD IT department, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Smart Cities PDX, and Oregon DOE.

Student App Developer | Kode with Klossy   July - August 2023

- Collaborated with a virtual team to develop and code iOS app, "STEM Playground," an interactive STEM experience for students from underrepresented communities in STEM using Swift, SwiftUI, and XCode.
- Selected to present work to a panel of representatives from Apple.

Scholar | Girls Who Code   July - August 2023

- Worked on projects and attended classes focused on the fundamentals of UX, rapid prototyping, and play testing. Used p5.js (JavaScript) to conceptualize and code my own game for the final project.
- Presented my collection style game that teaches young kids about basic cybersecurity concepts and internet safety tips to Wells Fargo representatives.

Website and Media Director | India International Church   Feb. 2020 - Present

- Analyzes data to implement ways to increase SM engagement.
- Contributed to current website development (linked) and assists in updating website content, ensuring accurate info + user-friendly experience and navigation.

- Leads online communication and promotional content for major church events, resulting in increased attendance.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Regional Affiliate Winner | NCWIT AiC   May 2024

- Working in the ECE department of PSU at the Teuscher Lab

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