Deonna Owens

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EDUCATION

Stanford University | Stanford, CA
M.S. in Computer Science
Expected Graduation Date: June 2026

Langston University | Langston, OK
B.S. in Computer Science

Relevant Courses: CS 230 Deep Learning, CS 221 Artificial Intelligence, CS 205L Continuous Math for Machine Learning

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, Java, JavaScript
ML/AI: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Hugging Face, Scikit-learn, NumPy
Simulation/Robotics: Isaac Sim

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist/Engineer Intern | Adobe, Inc. | San Jose, CA   **May 2024 – September 2024**

- Led the research and experimentation for a novel multi-LLM framework aimed at reducing bias in large language models, contributing to more fair and ethical AI systems.
- Designed, implemented, and ran all experiments, comparing multi-LLM methods for bias mitigation across diverse social groups.
- Authored a comprehensive research paper based on findings, which has been submitted for publication.
- Advanced the understanding of bias in LLMs by proposing a new framework that tackles hard-to-detect biases, pushing the boundaries of fairness in AI.

Undergraduate Research Intern | Stanford University | Stanford, CA   **Jun 2023 - Aug 2023**

- Conducted research focused on optimizing interventions in specific contexts, aiming to identify the most effective approach with minimal sample size.
- Utilized notional data featuring randomly generated integer values and matrix multiplication to assess various intervention strategies.
- Discovered that a balance of exploration and exploitation, with an epsilon value of 0.7, yielded the best results in terms of error reduction and reward maximization.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Owens, D. M.**, Rossi, R. A., Kim, S., Yu, T., Dernoncourt, F., Chen, X., Zhang, R., Gu, J., Deilamsalehy, H., & Lipka, N. (2025, September). *Multi-LLM debiasing framework.* In *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing – Natural Language Processing in the Generative AI Era* (pp. 843–853). Varna, Bulgaria. https://acl-bg.org/proceedings/2025/RANLP%202025/pdf/2025.ranlp-1.96.pdf
- Gallegos, I. O., Aponte, R., Rossi, R. A., Barrow, J., Tanjim, M., Yu, T., Deilamsalehy, H., Zhang, R., Kim, S., Dernoncourt, F., Lipka, N., **Owens, D.**, & Gu, J. (2025). *Self-debiasing large language models: Zero-shot recognition and reduction of stereotypes.* In *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 2: Short Papers)* (pp. 873–888). Albuquerque, NM: Association for Computational Linguistics. https://aclanthology.org/2025.naacl-short.74.pdf

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Robotics Fellow | Amazon Robotics | Boston, MA   **Jun 2025 - Sep 2025**

- Created scalable and configurable simulation environments in Isaac Sim to generate demonstrations for training closed-loop policies.
- Designed and implemented a reward function for pick-and-place tasks that accounted for the GCU of totes.
- Advanced policy learning pipelines by integrating simulation environments and reward functions for pick-and-place tasks.

App Developer | Langston University | Langston, OK   **Nov 2023 – May 2024**
- Developed a nutrition-focused Android application using Java and Android Studio, aimed at improving the health and dietary habits of underserved communities.
- Designed and implemented the user interface layout of the application, ensuring an intuitive and user-friendly experience for users.
- Integrated essential features including food logging, calorie tracking, exercise tracking, and recipe browsing to facilitate healthier lifestyle choices within the target user base.

Systems Engineer Technician Intern | Boeing | Oklahoma City, OK   **Apr 2023 – Mar 2024**
- Updated and constructed Jira dashboards for four Scrum teams and one Kanban team, enhancing project tracking and improving team collaboration.
- Created comprehensive documentation for departmental processes, including step-by-step guides on how to design and implement dashboards, ensuring knowledge transfer and process consistency within the organization.
- Collaborated closely with the test team to gain hands-on experience and a deep understanding of aircraft software testing fundamentals, contributing to the quality assurance process and overall team success.

Teaching Assistant | CS4983 - Android Development | CodePath   **Fall 2022 – Fall 2023**
- Successfully led a class of 15 students through a comprehensive Android development curriculum, imparting fundamental skills in app design, development, and deployment.
- Developed and delivered engaging lectures, hands-on coding sessions, and real-world project assignments, ensuring a thorough understanding of Android app development concepts.
- Maintained a stellar overall instructor rating of 4.9 out of 5 from students.

Help Desk Technician | Langston University | Langston, OK   **Sep 2021 – Mar 2023**
- Configure the environment of students' laptops before assigning them.
- Assist students in navigating the operating system of their assigned laptop.
- Troubleshoot issues with students' laptops.

Software Engineer Intern | Cisco Systems | San Jose, CA   **May 2022 – Aug 2022**
- Developed a Python script to converge all identical directories within departmental codebases.
- Automated the convergence process.
- Decreased labor hours for the convergence process by 95%.
- Saved the department approximately $305,000.

Project Lead and Frontend Developer | A Little Bit of Hope | Remote   **Jan 2022 – Apr 2022**
- Spearheaded the capstone project and worked alongside 4 other computer science students to deliver a Wishlist feature to our stakeholders (ALBH) for their existing website.
- Implemented the Scrum framework for project management.
- Lead frontend development by building out the user interface.
- Communicated with the stakeholders weekly to ensure satisfaction with work.
- Developed the UI using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, thereby Increasing ALBH customer ease of use.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

President | Computer Science Club | Langston University   **Aug 2022 – May 2024**
- Spearheaded a 100% increase in club membership through effective leadership and marketing strategies.

- Mentored over 20 students, providing valuable guidance through mock interviews, resume critiques, career counseling, programming assistance, and life advice.
- Led the competition team to achieve 1st and 2nd place honors in three distinct hackathons, showcasing the club's technical prowess and teamwork.
- Fostered a collaborative and supportive environment within the club, facilitating members' personal and professional growth in the field of computer science.

Founding President | Google Developer Student Club | Langston University   Aug 2022 – May 2024

- Established and launched the Google Developer Student Club on campus after a successful interview process, demonstrating leadership and initiative.
- Led a team of motivated students in organizing and hosting tech-related events, workshops, and activities to foster a vibrant tech community within the university.
- Fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing among club members, creating a supportive environment for students to enhance their technical skills and network with like-minded peers.

Team Captain | Langston University Competitive Coding Team | Langston University Aug 2022 – May 2024

- Directed and managed multiple teams comprising of 3-5 members each, leading them in various coding projects across multiple competitions, demonstrating strong leadership and organizational skills.
- Spearheaded the development and execution of coding projects within tight deadlines, utilizing effective time management strategies to ensure the timely submission of fully functioning projects, often within 72- hour competition windows.
- Achieved notable success by leading teams to first and second place finishes in competitions, showcasing exceptional teamwork, technical prowess, and strategic planning under your guidance and leadership.

2nd Vice President | NAACP | Langston University   Aug 2023 – May 2024

- Supervised multiple committees including Health, Membership, Royal Court, and Press/Publicity, ensuring efficient operation and alignment with organizational goals and objectives.
- Provided support to the President by assisting with various tasks as required, demonstrating flexibility and dedication to the overall success of the organization.
- Facilitated the planning, organization, and execution of events, playing a pivotal role in ensuring their smooth operation and successful outcomes, while actively engaging in member recruitment initiatives and empowering students at Langston University through voter registration drives.

Lead Presenter | Oklahoma Secretary of Education Visit | Langston University   Feb 2024

- Engaged directly with the Oklahoma Secretary of Education during her visit to Langston University, presenting several award-winning apps developed by myself and some peers, highlighting innovation and excellence in education technology.
- Demonstrated leadership and expertise by articulating ideas about the future of education, particularly emphasizing the role of technology in advancing educational outcomes, fostering a dialogue on progressive approaches to learning and teaching.
- Leveraged the opportunity for one-on-one discussion with the Secretary of Education to share insights and recommendations, contributing to meaningful discourse on strategies for integrating technology into educational practices and enhancing student success.

Langston University Student Leader | TMCF 23rd Leadership Institute | Langston University   Sep 2023

- Engaged actively in workshops at the 23rd Annual TMCF Leadership Institute, acquiring valuable skills in market research, marketing strategies, persuasion techniques, and effective communication, enhancing personal and professional development.
- Demonstrated initiative and professionalism by participating in the career fair, which hosted over 50 employers, and seizing opportunities to interview with multiple companies.
- Garnered remarkable success from the conference, receiving five full-time job offers, a testament to the acquired skills, networking efforts, and positive impression made on potential employers.

Sophomore Class Vice-President | SGA Senate| Langston University   Sep 2021 - May 2022

- Acted as a liaison between the sophomore class and the Student Government Association (SGA), advocating for the concerns and interests of fellow students at various events and forums.

- Promoted engagement within the sophomore class by encouraging attendance at SGA events, including Town Hall meetings, fostering a sense of community and participation among classmates.
- Coordinated and co-hosted the successful "Fall in Love with Your Major" event alongside the class president, inviting Langston University alumni from diverse backgrounds to share insights and advice on career paths related to different majors, empowering students to make informed decisions about their academic pursuits and post-college success.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Computer Science Department Tutor and Mentor | Langston, OK　　　　　**Aug 2022 – May 2024**
- Provided valuable support to fellow students in the computer science department by offering assistance with programming assignments and clarification of complex concepts, fostering academic success and confidence.
- Served as a mentor to numerous students within the department, offering guidance and support in various aspects of their academic and professional development, including conducting mock interviews, reviewing resumes, refining elevator pitches, and providing personalized advice.
- Witnessed significant growth and achievement among mentored students, with many successfully securing internship and job offers as a result of their enhanced skills and confidence, highlighting the effectiveness of mentorship in fostering career readiness and success.

2024 Ardmore Middle School Day at Langston University | Langston, OK　　　　　**Apr 2024**
- Presented to three middle school classes alongside fellow Computer Science (CS) department peers, leading engaging discussions on computer science and artificial intelligence (AI), fostering interest and curiosity among the students.
- Took the initiative to lead each discussion, effectively communicating complex concepts in a relatable manner to inspire the middle school students to explore the field of computer science further.
- Encouraged active learning by advocating for coding education, sharing valuable resources and tools for students to initiate their coding journey, empowering them to develop essential skills for the future.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Alpha Upsilon Omega Easter Egg Hunt | Langston, OK　　**Mar 2024**
- Contributed to the success of the annual Alpha Upsilon Omega Easter Egg Hunt by dedicating over 2 hours to stuff and organize more than 200 eggs, ensuring a delightful experience for the participants.
- Actively engaged in the execution of the event by assisting in the setup, hiding of eggs, and guiding children during the Easter egg hunt, fostering joy and excitement among the participants.
- Demonstrated commitment to community service by participating in the cleanup efforts post-event, contributing to the maintenance and tidiness of the event space, and reinforcing the sorority's dedication to community engagement and support.

Langston Food Pantry Distribution | Langston, OK　　　　　**Mar 2024**
- Distributed food items from the pantry, ensuring that individuals and families in need received sufficient supplies to meet their nutritional requirements.
- Demonstrated accountability by meticulously tracking the distribution process, having each recipient sign a sheet to ensure accurate record-keeping and accountability for every box distributed.
- Dedicated two hours to the distribution efforts, exemplifying commitment, and compassion towards serving the community's most vulnerable members and addressing food insecurity issues effectively.

Langston Food Pantry Set Up | Langston, OK　　　　　**Mar 2024**
- Prepared for food distribution by dedicating three hours to assist with the setup of the Langston Food Pantry, actively participating in packing boxes with essential food items.
- Demonstrated organizational skills by efficiently stocking and organizing food items, ensuring that the pantry was well-maintained and accessible for those in need.
- Took responsibility for quality control by cleaning as needed, counting boxes for distribution, and

verifying that each box contained an adequate supply of food items, contributing to the smooth operation of the food pantry and the provision of essential resources to the community.

2023 Ardmore Middle School Day at Langston University | Langston, OK   **Apr 2023**

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- Took the initiative to lead each discussion, effectively communicating complex concepts in a relatable manner to inspire the middle school students to explore the field of computer science further.
- Encouraged active learning by advocating for coding education, sharing valuable resources and tools for students to initiate their coding journey, empowering them to develop essential skills for the future.

2023 High School Day at Langston University | Langston, OK   **Mar 2023**

- Took leadership responsibility for hosting Jenks High School, facilitating the engagement of approximately 50 students alongside fellow ambassadors, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere and informative experience.
- Maintained high energy throughout the event, actively engaging with students and conveying the unique value of Langston University and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to inspire interest and enthusiasm.
- Educated visiting high school students about Langston University and the significance of HBCUs, providing valuable insights into academic programs, campus life, and the cultural heritage of these institutions, fostering connections and potential interest among prospective students.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Amazon Robotics Day One Fellow
- Most Outstanding - Langston University Computer Science Department
- Highest GPA - Langston University Computer Science Department
- 6x President's Honor Roll
- TMCF Google HBCU Scholar
- TMCF Adobe Ignite Scholar
- TMCF Wells Fargo Scholar
- TMCF Cargill Scholar
- Google Conference Scholar - Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) Conference
- Google Conference Scholar - Blacks in Technology Conference
- Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank 6th Annual Code-A-Thon - 2nd Place
- BDPA Mobile App Pitch Competition - 3rd Place
- TMCF The Pitch - 3rd Place
- Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank 7th Annual Code-A-Thon - 2nd Place
- The University of Alabama Innovate Hackathon - 1st Place
- OK-LSAMP – Scholar

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – Member
- Langston University Ambassadors Association – Ambassador
- Women of Purpose –Treasurer (Spring 2021- Spring 2022)
- Sophomore Class Vice President – SGA Senate (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
- Computer Science Club – President (Fall 2022-Present)
- Google Developer Student Club – Langston University Founding President (Fall 2022-Present)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples – 2nd Vice President (Fall 2023-Present)
- National Society of Leadership and Success – Member
- National Council of Negro Women – Member
- LU Prime Thinkers Math Club – Community Service Chair
- Association for Computing Machinery – Member
- CodePath – Tech Fellow

- ITSMF College Mentoring Program – Mentee
- Microsoft Mentorship program – Mentee
- Adobe x HBCU20x20 – Fellow
- Black Girl Ventures Next Gen Pitch Competition –Top 4 Finalist