Helena Willits

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OBJECTIVE

Junior developer with 1.5 years of professional experience building production-level applications at **Amazon**. Strong foundation in **AWS services** (Lambda, S3, CDK), **full stack development** (Java, React), **machine learning** (Alexa, Q, Lex), and **solution design** in an agile environment.

EDUCATION

Computer Science BS from Cal Poly SLO   2018- 2022
- GPA: 3.5, Graduated **Cum Laude**
- **Dean's List** 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon SDE 1: **Alexa Plus**   Jan 2025 - Jan 2026
- Pioneered **agentic capabilities** and **platform integrations** for Alexa Plus, the next generation of **ambient AI**. Alexa Plus is the first of its kind to use a **model-agnostic architecture**, dynamically orchestrating **Anthropic**, **Amazon Nova**, and other LLMs to execute **multi-step actions** across services like Uber, Ticketmaster, and Amazon Fresh.
- Shipped a partner skill integration using Java, Lambda, and API Gateway, delivered an E2E test skill, built out calendar integrations, and delivered CX for a **large-scale Games campaign**, supporting **launch to 3M+ Alexa Plus users**.
- Engineered a local testing proxy solution using CDK to automate stack generation across 4 deployment stages in 10+ team packages, **eliminating testing bottlenecks** and **saving ~60 developer hours/week** across the team.
- Resolved critical bugs to **ensure high availability** for 300M users and partners representing $250K+ in revenue.

Amazon Web Services SDE 1: **Amazon Q**   June 2024 - Jan 2025
- Amazon Q Business **leverages companies' internal data** and **industry-leading LLM capabilities** to provide tailored assistance, empowering teams to be more **data-driven**, **creative**, and **productive**.
- Delivered major frontend components for the Q Code Transformation **launch at Re:Invent**. Used TypeScript, React, and REST APIs to integrate backend services **within a 4.5-month timeline** in a startup-like environment. This work is estimated to **save enterprises $50k–$200k per year** in labor costs and is estimated to have 100+ customers to date, **including one Fortune 500 company** onboarded at launch.
- Owned the team's UI, disambiguating technical gaps, prioritizing features based on technical complexity, iterating rapidly on decisions to meet aggressive deadlines, and **serving as a source of knowledge** on frontend architecture.

Amazon Web Services SDE Intern: **CodeCatalyst**   2022
- Designed and implemented a code coverage feature for developer tools using CDK, TypeScript, Lambda, S3, and EC2. The tool is estimated to have been available to about 10,000 developers. I earned a full-time **return offer**.

Amazon Web Services SDE Intern: **Amazon Lex**   2021
- Designed and delivered a **regression analysis tool** for **NLP model performance diagnostics** using Python and S3. The delivered tool is estimated to **save 200+ developer hours/week** across the team.
- Awarded **Summa Cum Laude**, **Magna Cum Laude**, and a **return offer** for exceptional delivery and initiative.

PROJECTS

Cal Poly Racing: Formula   2018 – 2019
- Built and tested parts for both the gas and electric race karts and worked on scripts to automate simulation tasks.

Society of Women Engineers with **Boeing**   2018 - 2019
- Prototyped a stowable treadmill for flight. I presented my work in Boeing reviews and led the research team.
- **Placed 3rd** at SWE National Conference, 2019 and earned an **Individual Recognition Award**.

App & Web Development
- SLO Hacks Hackathon | Java, Android Studio, Full Stack | helenewillits.github.io/home/projects/slo-hacks.html
- AthenaHacks Hackathon | Java, Android Studio, Backend | helenewillits.github.io/home/projects/athenahacks.html
- Group Project | HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Node, React, MongoDB github.com/helenewillits/JobMe?tab=readme-ov-file

SKILLS

Ownership, Quick Learner, Delivers Results

Languages: Python, Java, C, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, PHP
AWS Services: Lambda, S3, EC2, CloudWatch, API Gateway, DynamoDB, IAM, CloudFormation, Q Developer
Tools: Git, Brazil, Peru, Coral, REST APIs, React, Node.js, Android Studio, MongoDB, WordPress, TensorFlow, NumPy, Pandas