

# KAARTHIKA THAKKER

## EDUCATION

### RICE UNIVERSITY

B.S. Computer Science, Minor Sociology  
August 2016 - May 2020

B.S. Concentration in Computers and Society  
COMP 140 [intro CS] Teaching Assistant

## AWARDS

### Trustee Distinguished Scholarship

Awarded by Rice for Entrepreneurship  
\$24,500/year for four years

### Rice's Outstanding Senior Award

Awarded to 7 graduating seniors who have contributed the most to excellence at Rice

### Lovett's Outstanding Senior Award

Awarded to 10 seniors who have contributed the most to their residential college

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant - Harvey

Spring 2020

Worked with Dr. Anna Rhodes and Dr. Max Besbris in a small group to do backend qualitative research (transcription, coding, writing) for a 2-year study on resilience of the middle-class post Hurricane Harvey

### Team Lead - Design for America

Spring 2019

Led a team of 4 and worked with Mi Familia Vota, a non-profit dedicated to increasing civic engagement, to redesign their voter registration card to be more inclusive and user friendly for a younger population.

### How is Houston's Startup Community Changing its Identity?

Fall 2018 (Published Spring 2019)

Conducted interviews and a survey to analyze and create recommendations for Houston's startup ecosystem. Published in the [Rice Examiner](#), Rice's undergraduate social science research journal.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Station Manager (2019-2020)

KTRU Rice Radio (2016 - 2020) - Houston, TX

Past: Zine Editor-in-Chief (2018), Social Media Director (2017).

Manage 24-hour on-air radio station with over 75 volunteers from Rice and the Houston community. Led the station through the COVID-19 pandemic. Wrote internal emails, press releases, and gave interviews. Oversaw 8-act music and arts festival. Developed three on-air specialty shows: [Babewaves](#): to lift up female and non-binary artists, [Look for America](#): focusing on regional & DIY music across USA, [Show & Tell](#): inviting guests to bring music that's meaningful to them. Created several [DIY mini-magazines](#) to inform the ktru community. Ran ktru social media [ [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [twitter](#) ].

### Associate Product Manager Intern

YouTube [Google] (May - Aug 2019) - San Bruno, CA

Chosen as one of 45 Product Manager Interns from thousands of applicants around the globe. Worked on YouTube identity where I led the design of four external experiments and one launch in 12 weeks. Had 1:1 meetings with 50+ individuals. Worked with legal, PR, and UX to create a new feature. Created clear and detailed documents and product specifications.

### Engineering Practicum Intern

Google (May - Aug 2018) - Sunnyvale, CA

Developed a user-facing project in Files by Google Android app for Google's Next Billion Users, an initiative to build software for new internet users in India, Brazil, and China. 1 of 4 interns chosen to present at TGIF: Google's weekly all-hands meeting attended by over 3,000 employees.

### Intern

[AtmoSpark Technologies](#) (May - Aug 2017) - Houston, TX

An NSF funded atmospheric water generation company aiming to provide freshwater to those who need it. OwlSpark Startup Accelerator Summer 2017. Conducted over 100 customer interviews and met with various stakeholders to find product-market fit. Coded website, ran social media, designed flyers and business cards.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Team Lead

Virtual Reality Training (Spring 2020) - Houston, TX

Led a team of 10 in a self-organized group of 31 students to build a virtual reality fire safety module for a corporate client.

### Director

Rice University's Critical Approach: The Vagina Monologues (Spring 2019) - Houston, TX

Directed, presented, and performed in 3 showings of The Vagina Monologues with an all Rice-student cast and crew. Raised over \$3000 for Houston Area Women's Center and sold over 400 tickets. Created additional programming around the play to explore the canonical work through a modern-day feminist lens.