Kayla Cheng

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EDUCATION

Columbia University **New York, NY**
Bachelor of Arts in Data Science, Bachelor of Arts in Economics Expected May 2028

- **Major GPA:** 3.7 / 4.0; ACT: 35
- **Currently Enrolled In:** Intermediate Microeconomics, Probability Theory
- **Relevant Past Coursework:** Principles of Economics, Calculus-based Statistics, Data Structures and Algorithms, Introduction to Java Programming

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Break Through Tech AI Fellow **New York, NY**
Machine Learning & AI Fellow January 2025 - Present

- Selected for a national fellowship focused on increasing representation in AI and machine learning; awarded a $2,000 merit-based stipend and earned a Machine Learning Foundations certificate from Cornell Tech.
- Completed 15+ hours/week of intensive training in Python, scikit-learn, and applied machine learning through project-based labs and case studies. Currently collaborating in AI Studio with cross-functional teams and industry mentors to develop predictive models using real-world business datasets.
- Clean, visualize, and statistically analyze large experimental datasets using libraries such as NumPy, Pandas, and Seaborn.

Sustainable Finance Group **New York, NY**
Associate, Equity Research August 2024 - Present

- Conducted in-depth financial analysis and valuation of public equities, integrating ESG metrics with traditional performance indicators such as profitability, leverage, and liquidity.
- Co-authored a 9,000+ word, 41-page Fund I Sustainable Equity Investment Report analyzing sector performance, financial fundamentals, and ESG risks across five key industries including renewable energy, agriculture, and advanced tech.
- Developed investment theses and sector outlooks to inform fund strategy; findings were incorporated into stakeholder communications and investment marketing materials.

Wen Laboratory @ New Jersey Institute of Technology **Newark, NJ**
Engineering Intern January 2022 - June 2024

- Conducted experimental data analysis and statistical optimization for PFAS remediation research using MXene-Ti_4O_7 membranes, focusing on performance metrics such as adsorption rate, membrane efficiency, and degradation pathways.
- Applied regression analysis and techniques to identify key operational parameters driving remediation efficiency, enabling data-informed adjustments to experimental protocols.
- Co-authored peer-reviewed paper published in ACS ES&T Engineering and recognized with top honors at state engineering symposia for its environmental impact and scientific innovation.

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Terra North Jersey Science Fair & New Jersey Academy of Science Awards (2023)

- Stockholm Junior Water Prizes
- NJ Institute of Technology Fellowship
- 2nd Place Chemistry Award (2x)
- National Delegate for American Junior Academy of Sciences
- Chemical Engineering Bronze Medal (NJ Chemistry Olympics)

Society of Women Engineers - Award of Merit (2023)

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Languages: Fluent in English and Japanese; Conversational Proficiency in Spanish
Technical Skills: Java, Python (inc. Numpy, Pandas, Seaborn), HTML, SQL, Excel
Interests: Sustainable fashion, sewing, probability & math, animals (my tortoise Pumpkin)