

KAYLANI RIVERA

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Expected May 2027

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a Minor in Game Studies & Design

GPA: 3.8/4.0

- Relevant courses: Data Structures, System Programming, Algorithms, Computer Architecture, Discrete Structures, Linear Algebra, Computer Graphics
- Honors: James Scholar, President's Award Program Scholarship, State Farm Computer Science Scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCE

Girls Who Code

June 2025 - Aug 2025 & May 2024 - Aug 2024

Lead Teaching Assistant

Remote

- Taught interactive daily lessons in p5.js that introduced programming fundamentals and game development principles to 300+ high school students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in tech
- Delivered individualized feedback on student work to support technical growth and encourage creative problem-solving
- Mentored students through one-on-one check-ins and collaborative sessions to foster confidence, inclusivity, and community

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Association for Computing Machinery @ UIUC

September 2024 - Present

Infrastructure Chair

Urbana, IL

- Directed the development of ACM's internal management platform using React, TypeScript, and AWS Lambda, improving reliability to 99.9% uptime and enhancing the experience for 1,000+ users
- Established organization-wide technical standards and deployment pipelines across seven development teams to improve user experience and operational efficiency
- Oversaw a full UX redesign of the ACM website to address discoverability issues, streamline site architecture, and implement a more intuitive layout for members accessing events, resources, and internal tools

HackIllinois

October 2023 - September 2024

Co-Director

Urbana, IL

- Led the end-to-end planning and execution of HackIllinois, the Midwest's largest student-run hackathon, coordinating 50+ staff members and achieving all major event milestones on schedule for over 800 participants
- Established weekly goal-tracking and cross-team discussions to monitor progress to reduce planning bottlenecks and improve alignment across teams manage dependencies
- Fostered community and collaboration through structured communication, mentorship, and team-building initiatives, creating a supportive and motivated staff environment that sustained high engagement throughout the event cycle

PROJECTS

Recipe Sorter - HTML, CSS, and JavaScript

- Built a data-driven recipe organization platform with a dynamic spreadsheet database to enable real-time search and filtering
- Implemented custom filtering and sorting logic to deliver responsive and accurate results based on user-defined attributes
- Automated data synchronization using Google Apps Script, ensuring up-to-date content without manual refreshes

Gamify - Java, HTML, CSS, TypeScript, Node.js, and Vue.js

- Designed and developed a productivity web app that applies game design principles to life task management, encouraging consistent productivity and long-term goal tracking
- Built a dynamic progress tracking system that visualizes user achievements through real-time data updates
- Led a four-person development team, managing project milestones, task delegation, and feature integration to ensure timely delivery and a cohesive user experience

Melodify - Python (Flask, PyTorch, & NumPy), HTML, CSS, and JavaScript

- Created a web app that makes custom music from text prompts and delivers personalized song recommendations based on listening history and preferences
- Integrated ChatGPT AI's natural language processing to interpret mood, genre, and emotional tone from user input, feeding data into a PyTorch model for custom audio generation
- Streamlined team communication through regular syncs, retrospectives, and progress documentation, which improved development velocity and reduced cross-team blockers

SKILLS

Programming Languages: C/C++, Java, Python, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Assembly, C#

Tools/Technologies: GitHub, Docker, Unity, AWS, Azure, Cloudflare

Technical Applications: Website Development, Game Development, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Data Science

Multilingual: English, Spanish, and Assyrian