

Lea Staller

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EDUCATION

Cornell University College of Engineering, Ithaca, NY — Expected May 2027

B.S Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering; Department of Astronomy, General Astronomy Minor

Addison Trail High School, IL — August 2019 - May 2023

Cumulative GPA: 4.8/4.0, Valedictorian, Tri-M Music Honor Society Sergeant at Arms, District 88
Superintendent Advisory Board, Addison Trail High School Principal Advisory Board

COURSEWORK

Relevant Past Coursework: Intro to Mechanical Engineering, Python Programming & Design, Calculus 2 & 3, Statics & Mechanics of Solids, Electricity & Magnetism, Thermodynamics, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, History of Rock Music, Dynamics, Mechanical Design, Waves & Quantum Physics.

Fall 2025 Coursework: System Dynamics, Fluid Dynamics, Mechanics of Materials, Astronomy & Cosmology, History of Television.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Mechanical Design Final Project, Spring 2025

- Conducted the entire product creation lifecycle, including teamwork, market research, demographic interviews, CAD modeling, and several cycles of prototyping and fabrication for a unique storage solution product designed for young adults with minimal living space.
- Was selected to present and sell the product to a panel of judges, winning 3rd place in the class for design creativity, Autodesk Fusion360 CAD model sophistication, and market analysis.

MATLAB & SimuLink Dynamical Systems Exploration, January 2025 - Present

- Leveraged MATLAB to model and simulate dynamic systems, including feedback control design and fluid dynamical turbomachine analyses over the course of several university semesters.
- Participated in weekly laboratory sessions to compare computerized prediction models to real-world system behavior, strengthening knowledge of engineering fundamentals

Motorized Car Design and Prototyping Final Project, Fall 2023

- Designed and built a DC motor-powered car that placed 2nd in pulling force and 3rd in speed, applying principles of mechanical design, gear optimization, and engineering analysis with fellow team members.
- Managed material selection and fabrication within a constrained budget, ensuring both functional performance and aesthetic quality in the final design.

EXTRACURRICULARS

Society of Women Engineers, Cornell University, September 2023 - Present

Member of the Prospective Students Outreach Committee, September 2025 - Present

Participated in monthly meetings with Cornell's SWE community.

Cornell Astronomical Society, Cornell University, September 2023 - Present

Attended weekly meetings and open house events at the Fuertes Observatory.

Thespian Society Troupe #1498, Inducted May 2020

Engaged in 100+ hours/year across 12 productions in 4 years, working both on and off stage.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

American Eagle Outfitters - Sales Associate, June 2024 - Present

Hass & Swanton Productions - Lead Role in Television Show, *Act of Faith*, 2021 - 2024

SKILLS

Spanish (Intermediate), Python, Autodesk Fusion360, SolidWorks, MATLAB, SimuLink, Jupyter Notebooks, Data-Driven Visualization, Teamwork, Presentation, Public Speaking, Organization & Time-Management