MORA LABISI

PhD Student • NSF CSGrad4US Fellow
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Education

Northwestern University	Ph.D. Computer Science + Learning Sciences
PhD Student	September 2024 - present
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	B.S. Computer Science
3.8 GPA - Dean's List	September 2016 - May 2020

Work Experience

Starbucks - *Software Engineer I ➜ Software Engineer II ➜ Senior Software Engineer*
JUNE 2020 - AUGUST 2024
- Design, implement, and maintain a patent-pending cloud-based, distributed menu and cart management system that leverages an existing GraphQL orchestration layer to modernize the barista-facing Point-Of-Sale experience.
- Develop, monitor, and support the client-dedicated GraphQL orchestration layer that lies between the mobile and web clients and the backend APIs as an *engineer II*.
- Worked amongst SDETs, SWEs, and SREs as an *engineer I* on the Customer Acquisition Team to develop and manage the REST APIs and proxies behind digital gift cards, user accounts, and OAuth2.

Starbucks - *Software Engineering Intern*
JUNE 2019 - AUGUST 2019
- Created a serverless, schedule-based function to dynamically optimize Microsoft Azure Cosmos DB database settings for the times of day when digital gift card sales are most high—introducing significant cost savings with an initial estimation of savings starting at $6K per year.

Verified Group Educational Services - *Chief Technological Officer*
JUNE 2018 - PRESENT
- Develop, manage, and operate an International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) certified, Continuing Education Unit (CEU) granting eLearning Platform (***vgedservices.com***).
- Implement specific customizations for the site using PHP and SQL.

Google - *Software Engineering Intern*
JUNE 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018
- Improved performance and security of the framework used to write servers in Java across Google.
- Practiced Test-Driven Development to ensure the development of clean, robust code.

Teaching and Talks

Cookie Basics: Intro to Online Data Privacy - *Workshop*
An interactive workshop focusing on browser cookies, how they are used, and the implications they have for our online data privacy.
- [**January 2026**] Computing Everywhere Seminar - Northwestern's Center for Human-Computer Interaction + Design

How Starbucks Uses GraphQL to Power Millions of Transactions Per Day - *Tech Talk*
An engaging presentation on the GraphQL orchestration layer used by client-facing apps at Starbucks.
- [**April 2023**] Management Leadership for Tomorrow Virtual Tech Trek - Industry Tech Talks
- [**September 2022**] HackHER Gals Cybersecurity & STEM Outreach Event
- [**February 2022**] Cal Poly Pomona sheCodes Guest Speaker Event

Serving Up Coffee With GraphQL - *Workshop*
An interactive workshop on the basics of developing a GraphQL server.
- [**June 2022**] Lesbians Who Tech & Allies Pride Summit
- [**May 2022**] Starbucks Innovation Expo
- [**October 2021**] Starbucks Technology Learning Lab Fridays

The Significance of APIs in Web-Based Software Engineering - *Tech Talk*
An exploration of web services, protocols (HTTP/HTTPS), object notations (JSON, XML), and data transfer paradigms (REST, GraphQL).

- [**April 2022**] Management Leadership for Tomorrow Virtual Tech Trek - Tech Talks
- [**April 2022**] Cal Poly Pomona sheCodes Guest Speaker Event
- [**March 2020**] Cal Poly Pomona Department of Computer Science - Undergraduate Seminar

Service and Outreach

Code The Spectrum's Inclusive Coding Festival - *Technical Programming Co-Chair*
JANUARY 2022 - OCTOBER 2022

- Designed problem sets and technical resources for a coding program that paired industry professionals with neurodivergent college students interested in pursuing a career in the field of Computer Science.
- Helped design problem sets and technical resources for students to refer to while working on their projects.
- Co-created the rubric and scoring system used by the industry judges to score student projects.
- Hosted and emceed the live, in-person culminating event held in Irvine, California on October 22nd, 2022.

Future Women Developer's Conference - *Event Organizer*
OCTOBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

- Helped secure a grant of $3000 from the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) for a secondary school outreach event catered to female students across the Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- Trained 23 instructors and volunteers in guiding conference attendees through testing, debugging, implementing, and presenting their projects.
- Designed and developed lesson plans, worksheets, and lecture sessions for sheCodes' third annual Future Women Developers Conference.
- Led 30 middle school and high school students in developing Raspberry Pi-powered Image Classifiers and Google Assistants.

Creative Labs CPP - *Co-Founder*
APRIL 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018

- Co-founded an interdisciplinary community on campus focused on bringing together students of all majors.
- Designed and administered weekly beginner-friendly workshops on various technical topics.

sheCodes (ACM-W) - *Executive Board Member*
SEPTEMBER 2016 - MAY 2020

- As President, Headed the Executive Board of Cal Poly Pomona's Association for Computing Machinery Council on Women in Computing (ACM-W) chapter focused on promoting and empowering women in the field of Computer Science.
- Secured guest speakers, planned company tours, led weekly board and general meetings, developed and gave technical workshops, and organized outreach conferences and events.
- Served as Internal Vice President 2018 to 2019 and Public Relations Chair 2017 to 2018.