Tikiri Ekanayake

(352) 631-9483 | tm.ekanayake4@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/tikiri-ekanayake | github.com/tikirie

EDUCATION

University of Florida — **Dec. 2025**
Bachelor of Science in Data Science — GPA: 3.84/4.00
- Minor in Japanese Language & Literature
- Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals and Applications
- **Courses:** Data Structures & Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Probability, Regression Analysis, Data Engineering (Coursera)

SKILLS

Languages: Python, C++, R, MATLAB, HTML, SQL
Developer Tools: PostgreSQL, SQLite, Tableau, GitHub, Microsoft Office 365, Godot, Docker, Postman

EXPERIENCE

Natural Hair Headquarters — Remote
Research Intern — *May 2024 – Present*
- Researched hair and scalp issues to create personalized hair care routines and recommend products for those with textured hair.
- Collaborated with other interns to maintain the website and analyze user data.

American Express — Remote
Senior Project Manager Shadow — *Aug. – Dec. 2023*
- Created a project under the guidance of a Senior Project Manager, Manager of MIS and Analytics, and Director of Automation.
- Developed a machine learning-based American Express credit card recommendation system and mock data set based on American Express card users' spending habits.
- Researched machine learning concepts and cemented understanding through meeting weekly with mentors.

Dayton Group, Inc — Columbia, MD
Data Entry Intern — *Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023*
- Populated and maintained a proprietary database of 1,000+ reviewed and tagged USACE FUDS and FUSRAP documents.
- Improved document and data storage, retrieval, and analysis processes by 70% by digitizing documents.
- Collaborated with a team to develop standard reviewing protocols across databases, enhancing consistency by 40%.

PROJECTS

Bite Back — *Apr. 2024*
- Cleaned dataset and assisted in coding the backend for an interactive meal nutrition calculator and diet recommender.
- Coded the Hash table's implementation, nutrition calculator, and algorithm to recommend 5 foods to supplement the user's diet.
- Compared the runtime of Hash Table and Graph implementations for storing and retrieving from ~250,000 data points.

HeartWatch — *Jan. 2024*
- Visualized ~4,000 data points concerning heart failure clinical records to predict survival on an interactive Tableau dashboard.
- Created scatter plots, histograms, box plots, KPIs, and charts to visualize trends between heart failure and health conditions.

HIV Prevalence Models — *Dec. 2023*
- Organized data on the age, race, transmission, gender, and year of contraction of American HIV patients using pandas, JSON, Matplotlib, and statsmodels.
- Illustrated possible relations between demographics by creating ANOVA, T-tests, and a choropleth map, along with predictions for areas most-likely to be impacted by HIV.

LEADERSHIP

Pride Student Union — Gainesville, FL
Treasurer (Previously Finance Director) — *May 2023 – Present*
- Organized and obtained event budgets of up to $10K for a "Big 9" student organization, devoting appropriate amounts to venues, merchandise, food, programming, awards, and honorariums.
- Oversaw 70+ purchase requests of over $150 from other board members for socials, events, and general body meetings.
- Led a team of Finance Directors to create budgets and assist in holding fundraisers, obtaining over $3K per semester.
- Assisted in making activity and organization decisions as a member of the executive board, nurturing a safe environment for the LGBTQ+ community at UF.

Women in Computer Science and Engineering — Gainesville, FL
Peer Mentor — *Aug. 2023 – May 2024*
- Mentored two underclassmen also majoring in Data Science and assisted in academics.
- Provided technical instruction, professional advice, and guidance to other mentees in the program.