

EDUCATION

Lehman College, City University of New York

B.A. in Computer Science (3.5 GPA)

New York, NY

Aug 2021 - May 2025 (anticipated)

• Presidential Scholar (2021, 2022, 2023) • President, Computer Science Club (2023) • President, CUNY Digital Currency Initiative (2022)

PUBLICATIONS

- Enhancing Urban Data Analysis through Large Language Models: A Case Study with NYC 311 Service Requests. Walter, H., **Portalatín-Mendez, E.**, Grimalovsky, M., Smith, B., Laird, J., & Ortiz, J. (2024). Human LLM Interaction. HRI-24 Workshop. Retrieved from https://human-llm-interaction.github.io/workshop/hri24/papers/hllmi24_paper_11.pdf
- Deep Learning with Biomimicry. **Portalatín-Mendez, E.**, & Doe, J. (2019). Journal of Design and Science. Retrieved from <https://jods.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/d8an1bja>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Trust Lab - Lehman College, CUNY (Part-Time Role)

Jan 2023 - **Present**

- Contributed to 2 academic papers (see Publications), adding to the advancement of knowledge in the field of public interest technology & data science.
- Provided literature reviews and peer feedback for Ph.D. representatives at the Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3).

REU Mentor, Florida Atlantic University

Jun - Aug 2024

- Contributed to 3+ student research initiatives to help support student summer projects, ranging from artificial intelligence, federated learning, and power grid infrastructures to biomedical health research.
- Supported administrators in facilitating events and group activities for increased student engagement throughout the summer program in local areas.

REU Scholar, Florida Atlantic University - AI for Smart Cities

Jun - Aug 2023

- Developed [social distancing awareness application](#) using object detection. Tools included in this project: open source object detection AI algorithm (YOLOv5), Python, Ouster SDK, Ouster Sensor, and Roboflow.
- Deployed [community web application](#) to serve future students in FAU programs, includes 40+ manually sourced local activities. Built with ReactJS, HTML, and CSS.

Data Scientist Fellow, Columbia University - Public Interest Technology Data Science Corps

Jun - Aug 2022

- Bridging the disclosure gap between two Brooklyn community boards and their communities with a public-facing dashboard.
- [Led a team of interns \(Team Empower\)](#) for the Public Interest Technology Data Science Corps on a real-world impact project, ensuring successful delivery of cleaned data using OpenNYC metrics.
- Pioneered development of front-end architecture, building foundation of a [web application for the NYC Community Board](#).
- Management of communications on budgets exceeding \$1M per district, driving visually appealing user experiences for 2 districts in Brooklyn, NY.

HONORS & AWARDS

[IEEE Women in Services Computing Scholarship](#)

2024

- A commitment to growing the technical community of women in services computing worldwide.

[Blackstone Launchpad Pitch Competition](#)

2023

- Grand Prize Winner in Pitching Competition, demonstrating [EcoBuddy.io](#) - an AI job search tool.

[Blackstone IDEAS Competition](#)

2022

- Campus-Round Winner in Pitching Competition, demonstrating leadership and public speaking skills.

[Presidential Scholar, Lehman College](#)

[2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#)

- A designation when student meets all qualifications & exceeds the GPA requirement for Dean's list.

[ETH New York City Hackathon \(2022\)](#)

2022

- Sponsored Winner in global competition for building Splytto blockchain app.

[HudsonAlpha Tech Challenge \(2017\)](#)

2017

- Grand Prize Winner for designing and programming a Biometric Authentication Blockchain Solution.

WORK EXPERIENCE

College Tutor Assistant, Computer Science Lab - Lehman College, CUNY

Feb 2023 - **Present**

- Established best practices with students by utilizing ZYBooks and StackOverflow as resources, such as Don't Repeat Yourself (DRY), Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP), & other programming/teaching strategies resulting in 89.9% retention rate.
- Supported the Computer Science Lab directors by tutoring over 25 students per semester in computer science courses, fostering a strong understanding and application of key concepts in various programming languages: Python, Java, HTML/CSS, and JavaScript.

College Representative, Student Leadership Council - Center for Smart Streetscapes

Apr 2023 - **Present**

- Served as liaison between student body and center leadership within a Co-Chair and College Representative role (respectively), fulfilling initiatives for both undergraduate & graduate levels across all core partner institutions.
- Published multiple policy goals to support open communication, leadership development, & create opportunities for cross-collaboration among community, student leadership, and administrative members.

Founder / Technology Manager, Bold Motive Group LLC.

Feb 2018 - **Present**

- Established a startup organization built to publish web applications for social good based on scientific research.
- Published [independent study on artificial intelligence](#) specialized in deep learning with MIT Press and Media Labs (2019).
- Utilized research and development of blockchain-oriented systems for independent project: [EcoBuddy.io](#)

Operations & Technology Analyst, Young Ambitious One LLC.

Feb 2024 - May 2024

- Spearheaded data automation to leverage Airtable for developing scalable solutions, increasing by 200% in team productivity.
- Designed and deployed operations management system (OMS) for company project management, establishing best practices in TechOps division.

Software Web Developer III, Sure Secure Solutions LLC. | National Aeronautics & Space Administration

Jun 2020 - Sep 2021

- Completed project deliverables which directly impacted 50,000+ NASA database users within the ServiceNow enterprise cloud environment at the Office of NASA End-User Services for Innovation & Transformation (NEST) .
- Developed onboarding and training materials, introducing agile methodologies & software engineering best practices.
- Trained and onboarded junior developers with newly introduced system documents.

Director of Operations, Urban Engine (Non-profit: 501c3)

Jul 2018 - Jan 2019

- Led strategic communications and general operations for [International NASA Space Apps Challenge](#), resulting in over +48 million global media reach for City of Huntsville, Alabama.
- Initiated workforce development and community growth initiatives via managing non-profit programming, ultimately expanding regional ecosystem from 3,000 to over 5,000 members within first year of operations.

Marketing & Technology Manager, Arkham Storage Inc.

Aug 2017 - Feb 2018

- Directed business development, technical documentation, and team onboarding processes to ensure startup success.
- Utilized JavaScript, React.js, and Electron on Google Cloud platforms to drive innovation and achieve company goals.

IT Systems Analyst, Hexagon Safety & Infrastructure (Essnova Solutions)

Mar - Aug 2017

- Successfully implemented ServiceNow platform development training on geospatial information systems to enhance Information Technology (IT) services within the organization.
- Utilized JIRA & Confluence to establish technical documentation, onboarding processes, and client deliverables in alignment with Agile/SCRUM methodologies.

Founder / Technology Manager, 5 Star Signals International Holdings, LTD.

Jan 2013 - May 2015

- Established community programming for financial education services and products via Wordpress & Facebook Groups.
- Provision of IT maintenance, deployment & security of cross-regional divisions utilizing TradingView platform (SQL).

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

[Pokédex Web Application, Independent Project](#)

2022

- Created a search app for Pokémon statistics. Designed and deployed using HTML/CSS & ReactJS.

[Splytto Blockchain App, ETH-NYC Hackathon](#)

2022

- Decentralized app for splitting cryptocurrency utilizing Canva for design as well as ReactJS, NextJS, and Solidity.

CERTIFICATIONS

Coding & Programming

Fundamentals of Deep Learning with NVIDIA	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed an instructor-led training for fundamental techniques and tools required to train a deep learning model.	
Node.js	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Certified server-side web development training for back-end development with the Node.js runtime environment.	
React Native	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learned mobile app development by expanding on existing toolset for JavaScript and React with Expo and React Native.	
API Development	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Established knowledge of the API development lifecycle and a deep understanding of design and documentation phases.	
Scripting in ServiceNow Fundamentals	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determined best practices for ServiceNow environments with JavaScript on both client side and server side scripting.	
JavaScript Data Structures & Algorithms	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed over 300 hours of coursework to learn JavaScript fundamentals, Object Oriented Programming (OOP), and Functional Programming.	

Program Management

Google Project Management Certificate	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed six courses, developed by Google, that include hands-on, practice-based assessments.	
Responsible Conduct of Research	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Studied for requirements on the responsible conduct of research set by Florida Atlantic University.	
Earth Economics	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding conditions in which an economic theory applies and can be used to inform evidence-based policy-making.	

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3)

- Lehman College Representative, Student Leadership Council (2024 - 2025)
- Co-Chair and Lehman College Representative, Student Leadership Council (2023-2024)

HSF Scholar

- 2x alumni of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (2022, 2023)

Microsoft Community

- Learning PowerBI in the Microsoft Community.

Women Techmakers by Google

- Achieving badges on the Google Developer Profile.

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming Frameworks, Languages, & Libraries:

HTML5, CSS/SASS, JavaScript, NodeJS, ReactJS, Redux, React Native, TypeScript, Java, Python, NodeJS, NextJS

Tools & Platforms:

NPM, Git, GitHub, JIRA, Confluence, Google Suite, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Google Gemini, Google Suite, Google CoLab, MacOS, iOS, ServiceNow

Spoken Languages:

English (native), Spanish (fluent), Italian & French (beginner)