

Kifekachukwu Nwosu

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EDUCATION

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

Rochester, NY

B.S. Computer Science, GPA: 3.3 | Expected May 2027

B.S. Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Relevant coursework: Introduction to Software Engineering, Principles of Data Management, Concepts of Parallel & Distributed Systems, Programming Language Concepts, Mechanics of Programming

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

Frameworks & tools: Angular, Spring Boot, REST APIs, JUnit, SonarQube, JavaFX, PyTorch, Hugging Face, Pandas, NumPy, Git/GitHub, Figma

EXPERIENCE

CRA-DREU Research Fellow — Lab for Population Intelligence, RIT

Summer 2026 – Present

Rochester, NY

- Built a Python evaluation pipeline benchmarking zero-shot classification (BART-large-MNLI, Hugging Face) against 500 tweets I hand-coded from a 13,000+ tweet #EndSARS protest dataset
- Measured precision, recall, F1 and Cohen's kappa; found near-chance agreement ($\kappa = 0.01\text{--}0.05$), systematic over-prediction (95% of tweets labeled prognostic vs. 16% by human coding) and a hidden 0.40 decision threshold
- Showed how raw accuracy misleads on imbalanced labels and documented failure modes on Nigerian Pidgin, sarcasm and short, context-dependent tweets

Machine Learning Research Engineer — MDATA Lab, UMBC

June 2023 – January 2025

Baltimore, MD

- Built unsupervised ML algorithms to detect anomalies in audio time-series data; work contributed to 4 peer-reviewed papers (IEEE ISI, AAAI, Language and Linguistics Compass, BAAL) with 29 citations
- Engineered end-to-end Python data pipelines (Pandas, NumPy, PyTorch) for cleaning, feature extraction and model training on datasets including ASVspoof, WaveFake and LJSpeech
- Led first-author research on auto-annotating audio with expert-defined linguistic features to make deepfake detection more accurate and explainable; presented at AAAI's ATHAI symposium (2023) and ADSA '24

Undergraduate Researcher, Accessible Gaming — Golisano College of Computing, RIT

Summer 2024

Rochester, NY

- Audited Steam, itch.io, PlayStation Store and Nintendo eShop with a rubric built on WCAG 2 (POUR), the ADA and inclusive design, plus WAVE, for players with visual, motor and cognitive disabilities
- Designed two accessible storefront prototypes in Figma (high-contrast themes, 200% text, captions and audio description, filtering games by accessibility features); presented at RIT's 2025 Annual Undergraduate Conference

PROJECTS

Auto Annotation for Audio Deepfake Discernment

Python, PyTorch, Pandas, NumPy

- Built tooling that automatically tags audio clips with the linguistic cues sociolinguists use to spot spoofed speech (pitch, pauses, breathing, consonant bursts, audio quality)
- Fed the features into deepfake detection to improve accuracy and interpretability; published as first author in the Proceedings of the AAAI Symposium Series (2023)

HeartStrings — Full-Stack Crowdfunding App (team)

Angular, Java, Spring Boot, REST, JUnit

- Built a web app where helpers donate time, instruments or money to music-education needs, with a three-tier architecture (UI, model, persistence) and a shared inventory model reused by the cupboard and funding basket
- Ran SonarQube static analysis to catch a security risk (stack traces exposed in logs) and broken API routes; shipped usability fixes to buttons, navigation and search

Kiffy OS — Personal Portfolio (kifekachukwunwosu.com)

HTML, CSS, JavaScript

- Designed and built a dependency-free desktop-style site with draggable, resizable windows, keyboard and screen-reader support, and a responsive scroll view for phones

LEADERSHIP & HONORS

- Vice President, ALANA Collegiate Association, RIT Student Government (2025 – 2026)
- President, Organization of African Students, RIT (2024 – 2025)
- First Prize, RIT WGSS Symposium; Communication and Ethics Award; Student Beacon Award (2026); McNair Scholar; LSAMP Fellow