

Daylen Hicks

252-532-4745 | daylenhicks10@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/daylenhicks | github.com/dhicks11

EDUCATION

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

B.S. Computer Science, Minor in Supply Chain Management | GPA: 3.6

Aug. 2025 – May 2028

Greensboro, NC

Halifax Community College

A.A. & A.S. (Concurrent with High School Diploma)

Aug. 2021 – May 2025

Weldon, NC

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL, HTML/CSS

Frameworks: React, Next.js, Node.js

Developer Tools: Git, GitHub, Vercel, Supabase, Docker, PowerShell, Windows, Scrum

Libraries/Platforms: Firebase, Streamlit, NumPy, Pandas, Plotly, Tableau, AI Tools (Claude, Gemini, ChatGPT, Manus)

Cloud & Deployment: Firebase, Vercel, Google Cloud Platform, AWS (Amazon Bedrock)

AI & System Design: Responsible AI, Human-in-the-Loop Systems, LLM Evaluation & RLHF, Prompt Engineering

EXPERIENCE

JMP Statistical Discovery (SAS Institute)

Jun. 2026 – Aug. 2026

Software Engineer Intern

Cary, NC

- Incoming intern contributing to documentation tooling and scripting (Python, Perl, JavaScript, XML) for statistical analysis and data visualization software at a SAS business unit

Handshake

Feb. 2026 – Present

LLM / Generative AI Engineer

Remote

- Benchmarked output quality across **3 LLMs** (Claude, Gemini, ChatGPT) using structured evaluation criteria, identifying performance gaps and selecting optimal models for production use cases
- Performed RLHF-style feedback by rating and ranking **hundreds** of model responses; cleaned and curated training datasets to reduce noise and improve pipeline accuracy

I Got Next

Jan. 2026 – Present

Founder & Lead Developer | Next.js, TypeScript, React, Firebase, Stripe, Google Maps API

Remote

- Launched a full-stack pickup basketball platform growing from **0 to 500+** active players and **120 courts** mapped across **3 cities** within 8 weeks; built real-time check-in/out with Firestore auto-expiry and live occupancy tracking — igotnextapp.vercel.app
- Engineered Stripe Checkout + webhook pipeline for a **\$5.99/mo** Pro tier with **4** gated features; extracted payment sync into a shared React hook across **3** components
- Refactored **31-file** codebase to feature-based architecture — centralized constants, unified service modules, and enforced Next.js App Router Client/Server boundaries

Northampton County Schools

Aug. 2024 – May 2025

Tech Leader & FRC Team Captain

Gaston, NC

- Led a **10+** member robotics team engineering autonomous robots in Python, earning two **Rookie All-Star awards** and qualifying for the World Championship
- Developed a peer-mentoring program adopted by **25+** students that increased coursework proficiency by **40%** and improved team retention year-over-year

PROJECTS

PitchPad — 1st Place, Hack NCAT — Next.js, FastAPI, GPT-4o, Whisper, Groq, Supabase, Vercel, Railway

Mar. 2026

- Built an AI-powered pitch practice platform as deployment & infrastructure lead; architected a **Next.js/Vercel** frontend and **FastAPI/Railway** backend serving real-time AI feedback for the Lenovo “Ideation to Impact” challenge
- Integrated **OpenAI Whisper** for live transcription and **GPT-4o** to auto-generate investor-ready pitch decks in under **60 seconds**; used **Groq** for low-latency coaching scored on a **1–10** scale
- Wired **Supabase** (PostgreSQL + pgvector + Auth) supporting **2 user roles** (Creator/Reviewer) and shareable pitch deck export

SurgiControl Robot Arm Dashboard — J&J Hackathon | Python, Streamlit, Plotly, Pandas, Three.js

- Built a real-time 3D surgical robot arm dashboard for Johnson & Johnson enabling users to save and replay precise arm positions; simulated a mock ROS pipeline reducing team setup time by **60%+**
- Engineered CSV export to log exact arm placement coordinates, enabling data-driven motion pattern analysis and procedural accuracy tracking

Lincoln Financial Group — codeLinc10 Hackathon | AWS, Amazon Bedrock, Prompt Engineering

Oct. 2025

- Led product strategy and pitch for an AI-powered financial assistant on Amazon Bedrock; shaped a questionnaire-driven recommendation engine for personalized retirement/insurance plans and presented to Lincoln Financial stakeholders

COMPETITIONS & ACTIVITIES

UNCF STEM Innovation Summit Scholar (2026) — 1 of 50 HBCU Students Nationwide | SJECCD AI Session Certificate (Mar. 2026) |

Hack NCAT 1st Place | NSBE | ACM | codeLinc10 | CodeHouse JS Bootcamp