Rachael Higgins

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Portfolio │ https://not-your-avg-nerd.dev
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Summary

Detail-oriented and resourceful web developer with a strong foundation in mathematics and sciences, bringing a unique analytical approach to software development. Experienced in leveraging programming languages, web technologies, and problem-solving skills to create innovative solutions. Passionate about combining technical expertise, creativity, and scientific curiosity to drive community impact and inspire innovation.

Skills

Technical Skills:

- Full-Stack Development (HTML, CSS, Tailwind, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, React, Node.js, Next.js)
- Database Management & Cloud Services (MongoDB, MySQL, Supabase, SQLAlchemy, GCP)
- API Development & Integration, Testing & Debugging
- Version Control (Git, GitHub)
- Responsive Web Design

Professional Skills:

- Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking
- Technical Troubleshooting
- Process Optimization & Documentation
- Project Management & Collaboration
- Strong Written & Verbal Communication
- Adaptability & Continuous Learning
- Project Management (ClickUp, JIRA)

Work Experience

Teaching Team Assistant, Columbia University, Remote — 08/26/2025 - Present

- Support 11-week AI Edge cohort, providing technical guidance in Python, APIs, and backend development to justice-impacted adult learners while facilitating live Zoom sessions (Mon-Thurs, 6:15-9:30 PM EST).
- Conduct weekly office hours and grade assignments in Canvas LMS, delivering personalized coding support and constructive feedback to help fellows develop foundational software and AI skills.
- Monitor Slack channels for technical questions, track common issues, and submit weekly performance notes to optimize curriculum delivery and student success.

Software Engineer, Banyan Labs, Remote — 03/18/2025 - Present

- Lead Agile Scrum teams as Project Manager and Lead Developer across multiple AI-powered applications, managing project timelines and deliverables using ClickUp.
- Oversee development of AI-driven platforms including a government grant proposal evaluation system (React, Python, SQLAlchemy, FastAPI, Next.js) and HRPR personal assistant (OpenAI API, RAG, Supabase).
- Leverage AI tools and APIs to accelerate development cycles while guiding junior developers through version control best practices and AI integration techniques.

Software Engineer, Assessment Pathways, Remote — 03/18/2025 - 09/08/2025

- Developed a Google Chrome extension using React, JavaScript, and Node.js to assist teachers in grading assignments with AI-generated feedback.
- Implemented OAuth2 authentication and Google Cloud Platform integration to ensure secure access, scalability, and efficient AI processing.
- Collaborated with educators and developers in an Agile environment to optimize AI models for accurate grading and enhance user experience.

Education & Certifications

B.S., Biology/Math, University of Nebraska, Kearney, NE   In-progress

Full Stack Developer Certification, Persevere Coding Academy, York, NE   June 06, 2024

A.S., Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE   March 12, 2012

Projects

Flashcard AI (Production Site)
[Live Site](#) Developed an AI-powered flashcard generation platform using Next.js, JavaScript, and Supabase with integrated authentication, enabling users to automatically create personalized study materials and track learning progress through intelligent spaced repetition algorithms.

HRPR (Production Site)
 [Live Site](#) HRPR (Human-like Responsive Personal Representative) is an AI-powered personal assistant built with OpenAI API, React/Next.js, Tailwind CSS, and Supabase. Implemented RAG for enhanced context-aware responses.

Assessment Pathways (Chrome Extension)
 [Live Site](#) Created a platform from the ground up to help educators streamline grading workflows by allowing them to upload student assignments and receive AI-assisted grades and feedback, reducing manual evaluation time.

Musician Website
[Reuben Adkins](#) Built a website for a local guitarist to showcase his work and promote upcoming solo and band gigs — featuring performance highlights, event listings, and media content in a clean, user-friendly design.

Philly's Food Truck Website
[Live Site](#) Built a responsive frontend for a local Arizona-based food truck using React and Tailwind CSS, emphasizing mobile-first design and brand consistency.

Rachael Higgins Portfolio
[Portfolio Site](#) Designed and developed a personal tech portfolio using React to highlight project experience, frontend proficiency, and visual design skills.

Additional Work History is available upon request