

# Expanding Opportunities Using Your FIRST Experience

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Presented By Alicia Clouser



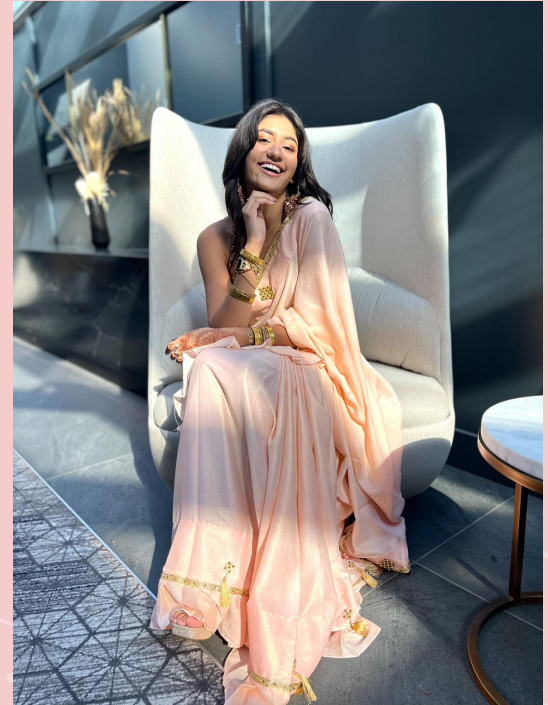
# Introduction

- My name is Alicia Clouser, a senior on team 2486 the CocoNuts!
- I specialize in outreach and advocacy
- I am also an intern engineer at Northern Arizona University for a non profit called Four Corners Science and Computing Club.
- I'm also a 2022 FIRST Dean's List Finalist
- I have also been offered \$380,000+ in scholarships



# Introduction

- My name is Riyana Patel, and I'm a sophomore on 2486 the CocoNuts!
- I specialize in creating new outreach efforts and Presentation
- I created a children's coloring book to encourage kids on STEM
- I Presented for and helped earn two regional Impact awards and the Daly division Engineering Inspiration Award



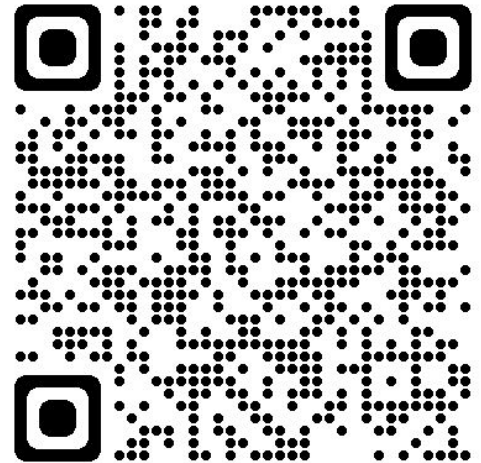
# Where Do I Find Scholarships?

- There are many scholarship sites to choose from. Below are some sites you can use.
  - Bold.org
  - Going Merry
  - Robotics Education
  - FIRST Website
  - Your school counselors (they will have additional information about in-house and local scholarships)
- FOR SENIORS!
  - Call your college's financial aid office to ask about in-house scholarships!



# Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)

- The WUE program has partnered with 160+ universities to make out of state tuition more affordable in the Western U.S.
- They are merit-based scholarships so keep your GPA above a 3.0!
- Scan the QR Code see all colleges in the WUE program.



# Tips For Applying For Scholarships

- GET RECOMMENDATION LETTERS!!!!
  - Get a letter of recommendation sent to your email and a hard copy.
  - Ask your robotics coaches, your teachers, counselors, etc.
- Start writing really amazing answers to general scholarships questions.
  - Then reuse them!
- Take the ACT and SAT - ask your counselor about fee waivers if you can afford it.
- Have your official transcript handy.

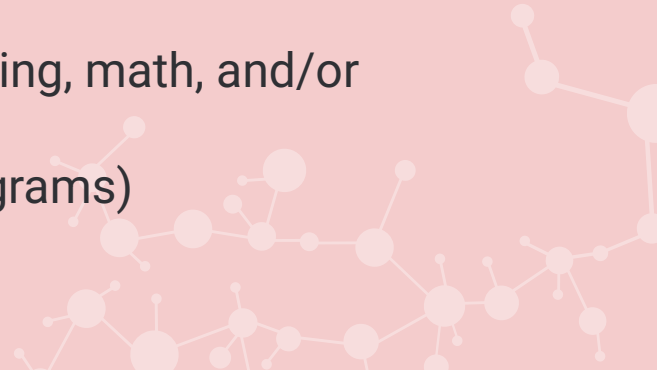
# Where Do I Find Internships?

- Make Connections at FIRST Events (EX: the innovation fair)
- Internship sites
  - Tallo, Polygence, College Shortcuts
- Look at the NASA website
- Look at the government/department websites
- Look at universities websites
- You have to dig for internships



# Internships to Look Into

- Cultural and Academic Research Experience (CARE)
  - Sponsored by Northern Arizona University
  - Both in-person and Online
- Eligibility
  - Low income families and/or underrepresented students (Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, disabled, etc.)
  - Students must be available for 90% of the sessions.  
\*prior approval for absences are required
  - Interested in science, technology, engineering, math, and/or medical fields
  - Parental/guardian supervision (virtual programs)



# Internships To Look Into – CARE

## QR Code

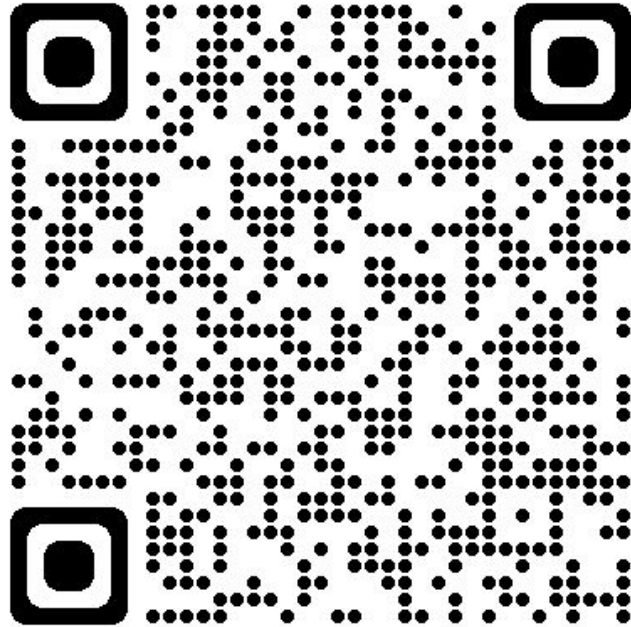


# Internships to Look Into

- Tgen Leadership Academy
- Eligibility
  - At least 16 years of age by the start of the program, and
  - A rising junior or senior at an Arizona high school during the program.



# Tgen Leadership Academy – QR Code



# Internships to Look Into

- Student Association for STEM Advocacy Volunteer Intern
- Eligibility
  - Passionate about advocacy



# SASA Intern QR Code



# How to Apply to Programs

- Combine personal story and how FIRST/your FRC team impacted your life
- Talk about failures and then achievements
- How have you been a leader

# An Example From My Own Application That Got Me \$20,000

Regrettably, I was ashamed to be indigenous. Growing up with negative stereotypes attached to indigenous people, I was destined by others to live a life filled with diapers, poverty, suicide, and substance abuse.

After joining the CocoNuts, they inspired me to advocate for my people at the national level for STEAM on the Navajo reservation. I created a STEAM fair for the reservation that has impacted 400+ students including my cousins. This fair led to the creation of RezBotics, that started 12 teams on the reservation. Because of the CocoNuts, I gained the strength to be an indigenous role model.



# How To Build A Resume

# How to Build A Resume – R

Step 1) Add heading with your information

**Alicia Clouser**

■ alicia.rose.2024@gmail.com



# How to Build A Resume – R

## Step 2) Add your education and RELEVANT coursework

### Education

**Coconino High School (CHS)** | Flagstaff, AZ

Anticipated Graduation: May 2024

- *Relevant Coursework: CIT Engineering 1-3 | Honors Physics/Chemistry | Algebra 1/Honors 2 | AP Physics 1 | AP Chemistry | Pre-Calculus | Honors Geometry | Chemistry Lab Aid*

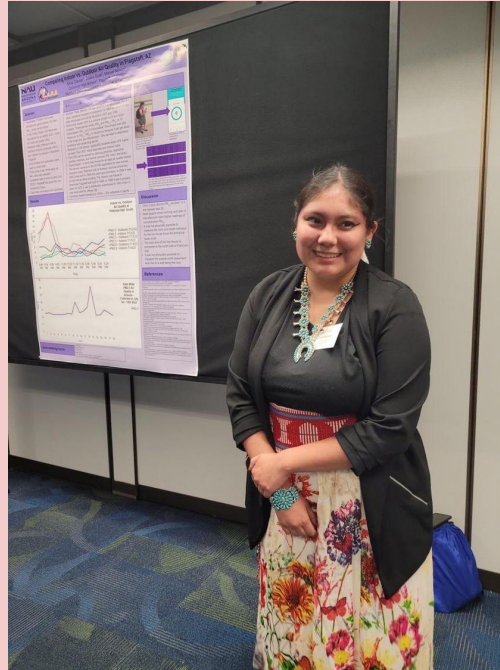
**Northern Arizona University** | Flagstaff, AZ

July 2023

- *Completed 3 credits in HS 299*

# How to Build A Resume

Step 3) Describe your internship/summer programs



# How to Build A Resume

## Research & Professional Development

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**Researcher / Participant** | CARE Program | *Remote & Flagstaff, AZ*

June 2021/2022/2023

- Selected to participate in the Cultural and Academic Research Experience (CARE) Summer Internship Program at Northern Arizona University alongside 13 peers to conduct research and take a college level course.
- Worked with Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and Four Corners Science and Computing Club (4CSCC) to develop a new device/activity to introduce indigenous students to the STEM field.

**Participant** | Girls Who Code Program | *Remote*

July 2020

- Took part in a 2-week program focused on learning how to code and gained skills in HTML, CSS, JavaScript.

**Participant** | Native American Youth Entrepreneurship Program | *Remote*

July 2020

- Learned the foundation of entrepreneurship in a weeklong program sponsored by The University of Arizona.
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, consisting of a network of interconnected circles and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a network diagram. The circles vary in size, and the lines are thin and light-colored, set against a light pink background.

# How to Build A Resume

## Step 4) Include sports, clubs, and in school programs

### Extracurriculars and Programs

**Participant** | Coconino Institute of Technology (CIT) | *CHS Program*

August 2020 - May 2023

- CIT is a STEM program where students learn science and technology at a higher level.

**Participant** | FIRST Robotics Competition team 2486 the CocoNuts | *Remote*

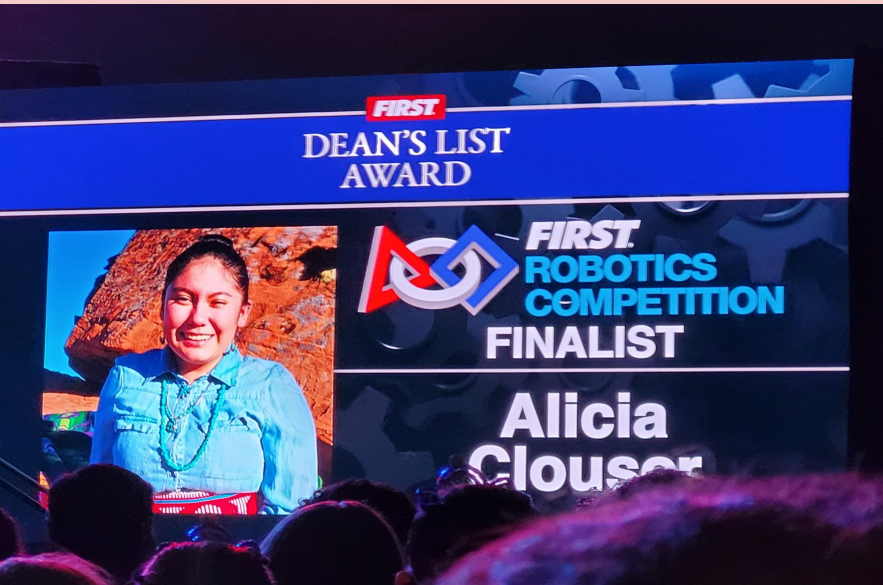
August 2020 - Current

- On this team I work on writing and presenting about our team's community outreach.
- I advocate for students on the Dine (Navajo) reservation.



# How to Build A Resume

## Step 5) Add awards



## Flagstaff STEMMY Awards

The STEMMY Awards are presented annually to students, teachers, and organizations who are STEAM leaders in our community.

T  
**Congratulations to the 2022 Flagstaff STEMMY Award Winners!**

**STEMMY Students of the Year**

*Tied for First Place*

**Alicia Clouser** 10th Grade @ Coconino High School

**Hannah Gurne** 12th Grade @ Coconino High School

*Runner-Up*

**Adam Whitcomb** 12th Grade @ Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy



Alicia Clouser

# How to Build A Resume – R

## Awards

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**1st & 3rd Place** | Poetry Out Loud school competition | *CHS* February 2020 & 2021 & 2022

- Students use public speaking skills to convey the meaning of a poem they memorize
- 1st place as of 2022

**Awardee** | Native American Honors Student | *Flagstaff Unified School District* May 2020 & 2021

- Students receive a plaque and certificate for having a 3.3 gpa or higher from the school district.

**Finalist** | FIRST Dean's List Award | *FIRST Robotics Competition* March 2022

- Students who receive that title are shown as amazing student leaders that increase the awareness of FIRST/STEM and their mission.
- Only 300 students around the world receive this award for FIRST Robotics Competition.

**Awardee** | Flagstaff STEM Student of the Year | *City of Flagstaff* April 2022

- Students are awarded \$500 for "...people who are STEAM leaders in our community." (STEM City of Flagstaff)

**Certificate** | Arizona Technical Skills Standards - Engineering | *Arizona Department of Education* May 2023

- This certifies that I can enter into an intro level engineering job by passing a test based on industry - validated technical standards.

# How to Build A Resume – R

## Step 6) Add presentations



### **Presentations**

**Participant** | National Advocacy Conference | *Washington DC, Capitol Hill*

June 2021 & June 2022 & June 2023

- Presented with robotics teammates about STEM Education to state representatives.

**Workshop Speaker** | Expanding Opportunities Using FIRST Experience and Resume Building | *Arizona State University*

- Presented a workshop at FIRST Tech Challenge game reveal on how to receive scholarships and internships.

**Presented** | "Comparing Indoor vs. Outdoor Air Quality in Flagstaff, Arizona" | *AISES Conference*

October 2022

- Presented my research from my time with CARE and ITEP

# Add Community Service

## Community Work

**Participant** | FIRST Robotics Volunteering | *Remote & in-person*

August 2020 - Current

2021 - Current: FIRST Robotics Volunteering

- Over 300 hours of volunteering at FIRST robotics competitions, being in roles like judging and photography.

**Organizer** | 2nd Annual “¡Tambien Lo Puedo Hacer! (I Can Do It Too!)” STEM Fair | *Flagstaff, AZ*

February 2022

- Invited 13 STEM organizations to come to our high minority and low - income school for a day of free STEM fun.

**Organizer** | 1st Annual “Dine People Are The Future” STEM Fair | *Leupp, AZ*

February 2022

- Contacted 13 STEM organizations including five that are indigenous serving to come to Leupp Public School for their first in - person event since COVID - 19.



# Add Skills

Some examples of my skills are:

- Organization
  - restock/labeling
  - clean work environment
  - filing and commuter organization
- Communication
  - resolving workplace issues
  - expressing/listening to knowledge and opinions
  - ability to talk effectively with colleagues
- Building
  - woodworking- saw work, staining/painting, making furniture

# Add Skills

- Networking
  - emailing, phone calls, & meetings
  - representing company values, selling products and proposals
  - good relations with vendors, partners, & sponsors
- Technology
  - experienced and trained with google, microsoft, apple, and dell applications
  - Spreadsheet, Docs, Slides, Word, Exel, Canva
- House Work
  - cleaning
  - cooking/dishwashing
  - gardening/landscaping

# Interview Tips

Once you have a great resume and make it to the interview portion of getting getting a job:

- Dress professional, something you feel confident in!
- Get there early!
- They should have looked at your resume, be prepared to concisely answer any questions or go further in depth
- Have a prepared answer for the question “why should we hire you?”, use your skills to your advantage!

# Interview + Job Tips

- Some questions to ask them:
  - working hours?, work outside of workplace expectations?, What is the pay range for this position?, Is there any answer I could elaborate more on?
- If you have worked somewhere previously, avoid negative comments
- Be present and polite within the interview!
- If you receive the job, write down your starting and ending dates as well as any pay raises when they happen! This will help you the next time you are applying somewhere :)

# When You Are Applying to College.

- Undergraduate Degrees is just the starting point, so if you don't get into a top school that's okay!
  - Make your undergraduate degree as cheap as possible.
  - What will make you successful in life is not a Ivy League degree, it's the skills, what you've done, and the connections you have made.



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**Any questions?**