

Hannah Estes

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Computer Science**, North Carolina State University May, 2029 (expected)
 Advised by [Dr. Kathryn T. Stolee](#), Wolfpack Innovations in Software Engineering Research (WISER) Lab
- M.S. Computer Science**, North Carolina State University December, 2026 (expected)
- B.S. Computer Science**, North Carolina State University, Magna Cum Laude May, 2024
 Minors: Cognitive Science, Global Leadership & Team Decision Making
 NCSU College of Engineering Faculty Senior Scholar Nominee, CSC Ambassador

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Hannah Estes**, Satwika Kancharla, and Kathryn T. Stolee. Expectations of Software Product Managers: An Empirical Evaluation of Software Professionals' Perspectives. *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology (TOSEM)*, 2026. [Under Review]
- [2] **Hannah Estes**, Katie Hollowell, John Cheek, Shiv Patel, Hanna Reese, and Kathryn T. Stolee. 2025. Advancing Software Product Management Education: Insights from an Industry Survey. In *33rd ACM International Conference on the Foundations of Software Engineering (FSE Companion '25)*, June 23–28, 2025, Trondheim, Norway. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 11 pages. [DOI]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant** August, 2024 - present
 WISER Lab, Department of Computer Science, NCSU Raleigh, NC
- Spearheaded a comprehensive research initiative and designed an IRB-approved protocol to define the software product manager (SPM) role, analyzing survey data from 80 software professionals across 22 companies and 37 job descriptions.
 - Coordinated a team of five student researchers through the full research pipeline — survey design, data collection, qualitative analysis, and paper writing — resulting in four students earning co-authorship on [2].
 - Published and presented a paper at FSE-SEET identifying 21 competencies and 10 key organizational values of the SPM role [2]; completed the written preliminary examination building on this work to propose curriculum enhancements for NCSU CS students.
 - Led a second paper, submitted to TOSEM, uncovering SPM role expectations across three perspectives — SPMs, software teams, and employers — through surveys of 80 software professionals across 22 companies and analysis of 37 job descriptions; synthesized findings into the SENSE framework characterizing SPM activities and eight friction points across the software development lifecycle [1].
 - Applied research findings to inform and update the curriculum of a new SPM course at NCSU, providing students with a competitive advantage in the workforce.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant** under [Dr. Kathryn T. Stolee](#) December, 2023 - August, 2024

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- Software Engineering Intern** June 2024 - August 2024
 Pearson Durham, NC
- Consolidated identities and created a seamless ID verification process for in-person and online users
 - Developed authentication session transfer capabilities for document verification across multiple devices
- Technology Security & Privacy Consulting Intern** June 2023 - August 2023
 Protiviti Dallas, TX

- Developed an interactive mock online order page utilizing Microsoft Power Apps and Power Pages, showcasing the practical application of digital twins and order management solutions for prospective clients
- Automated tracking of deliverables to support the client’s virtualization process

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CSC 408: Software Product Management, North Carolina State University Fall 2024, Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant (TA), Instructor: Dr. Kathryn T. Stolee

- Leveraged firsthand experience as one of the first students enrolled in the course to propose updated learning objectives, revised course material, and a redesigned semester project to better align students with industry expectations.
- Delivered lectures on qualitative data analysis best practices, guiding students in drawing actionable insights from primary data.
- Hosted office hours focused on helping students synthesize findings and develop cohesive, evidence-based narratives for their course projects.

INVITED PANELS

Graduate School...should I go? Is it for me? NCSU Engineering Your Experience Workshop February 2025

What is Research? Fontainebleau High School December 2024

SERVICE

Student Lead & Mentor, Computer Science Mentorship Program August 2025 - present

North Carolina State University

- Lead and coordinate a departmental mentorship program supporting undergraduate CS sophomore students
- Provide one-on-one mentorship on academic planning, career exploration, and professional development to support student retention and success within the department

Founder & Program Lead, PhD Connection Program February 2026 - present

North Carolina State University

- Designed and lead a mentorship initiative pairing incoming Ph.D. students with current students to support transition into graduate school
- Coordinate mentor recruitment, matching, and program communication in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association
- Facilitate early connections among students and with faculty, supporting onboarding and engagement in the months leading into the program

CS Ambassador August 2022 - present

North Carolina State University

- Selected as one of two department representatives at the Business of Software Conference, applying research to highlight the importance of understanding product value and customer delivery
- Delivered talks on computer science, the department, and life after NCSU to groups of 50+ prospective students and parents across four biannual open houses
- Mentored incoming ambassadors on communicating CS-specific concepts to non-technical audiences; facilitated Q&A sessions for prospective and incoming undergraduate students
- Represented the department at the alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony
- Participated in two panels providing insight into the Ph.D. application process and graduate school experience

Website Coordinator & Communications Liaison, AGEP-NC 2023 - 2024

Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate North Carolina (NSF-funded)

- Supported an NSF-funded program connecting three NC universities (NC State, NC A&T, UNCC) across eleven STEM doctoral departments to drive systematic change for underrepresented minority doctoral students
- Redesigned and maintained the program website to improve accessibility and usability
- Managed monthly newsletters communicating program progress and resources to stakeholders

Mentorship

Key: ^u undergraduate student ^g graduate student ^r research mentorship

Research Mentees

Satwika Kancharla ^{u,r}	Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
Mulikatu Yakuba ^{g,r}	Fall 2024
Katja Mathesius ^{g,r}	Fall 2024
Katie Hollowell ^{u,r}	Spring 2025
John Cheek ^{u,r}	Spring 2025
Shiv Patel ^{u,r}	Spring 2025
Hanna Reese ^{u,r}	Spring 2025

General Mentees

Miriam Bloomfield ^u	Fall 2025
Nihith Chanapathi ^u	Fall 2025, Spring 2026
Justin Huang ^u	Fall 2025
Jacob Garcia ^u	Spring 2026
Swathi Dwarampudi ^u	Spring 2026

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Carla Savage Award Nominee, Outstanding CS PhD Student NC State	March, 2026
Foundations of Software Engineering (FSE) Travel Grant , National Science Foundation (NSF), \$2,200	June 2025
Grad Cohort Workshop Travel Grant , Computing Research Association (CRA), \$480	October 2024

MEDIA COVERAGE

[How Hannah Estes Found her Passion for Research](#), NC State Department of Computer Science October 2025

REVIEWER AND SUBREVIEWER

HCI International (HCII 2025) Workshop: Designing for Inclusivity: Advancing User Experience Through Inclusive Design Methodologies | 2 full papers
IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2026): Software Engineering Education | 1 full paper