Ella Kokinda, Ph.D.

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Experienced cybersecurity analyst and technical writer with 5 years of experience utilizing RMF frameworks and developing cybersecurity training materials for Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic (NIWC) Atlantic's Data Center and Cloud Hosting Services (DC2HS) Division. Six (6) years' experience conducting and publishing research on creating effective learning environments culminating in a Computer Science PhD. Inactive Secret security clearance (2020).

EXPERIENCE

Clemson University, Human Factors in Software Engineering Lab   Jan. 2019 – May 2025

Computer Game Coding Camp (Educating Autistic Software Engineers)

- Analyzed existing research on software development learning outcomes to develop core learning objectives for camp curriculum.
- Created and maintained software development curriculum, student materials, and instructor documentation for use over multiple years of camp, including instructor's knowledge base of tools, processes, and procedures.
- Developed and implemented architecture to measure student software development proficiency baseline at the start of camp, and post-camp growth in support of research goals.
- Facilitated post-camp student feedback surveys, self-assessments, lessons learned meetings, and leadership retrospectives to improve curriculum, tools, processes, and instructional methodology for future camps.
- Communicated written and verbal reports on camp progression, student outcomes, and research to university leadership and federal funding sponsors.

Instructor + Researcher

- Designed course objectives, curriculum, and research questions for undergraduate computer science students
- Scheduled and hosted regular classes for students to expand general and technical knowledge based on course objectives.
- Documented course outcomes, including unforeseen events throughout the course, as a part of research artifacts. Applied lessons learned from analysis to drive continuous course improvement.

Graduate Research Assistant

- Published research in two journals and four peer-reviewed conferences, and poster presentations
- Conducted literature reviews and collected qualitative data for human subjects research

Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic   May 2015 – Dec. 2020

Scientist   *North Charleston, SC*

- Authored and maintained detailed onboarding Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to assist in integrating new hires into the DC2HS mission, including Cybersecurity Service Provider (CCSP) activities.
- Established technical training materials for cybersecurity compliance based on NIST SP 800-53 security controls, DOD Risk Management Framework (RMF) process, and the DON specific implementation, including the program's Incident Response Procedures.
- Onboarded and oversaw multiple DC2HS customer stakeholders and systems through RMF Assessment and Authorization (A&A) workflows to ensure security, technical, and administrative compliance post-migration into an AWS cloud-based environment.
- Managed cybersecurity assessment activities on ad-hoc, multidisciplinary project teams consisting of internal DC2HS personnel and stakeholders for the systems being migrated into AWS.
- Participated in Contingency Plan tabletop exercises as a part of the RMF annual security review process.

Clemson University   **Jan. 2015 – May 2017**

Information Technology Desk Technician   *Clemson, SC*

- Solved customer trouble reports with personal & university owned information technology systems and documented user issues for support tickets
- Communicated complex technical concepts to users with varying levels of technical knowledge

EDUCATION

Clemson University   **Clemson, SC**

PhD, Computer Science   Expected May 2025

- Dissertation topic: Informal Learning in STEM education focusing on motivation and education within live streaming software and game developer communities
- Graduate Certificate in Engineering and Science Education focusing on curriculum development and learning methodology

MS, Computer Science   May 2022

BS, Computer Science   May 2017

CERTIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- **Certifications:** CITI Investigators Conducting Social and Behavioral Science Research (SBR) Certification
- **Programming Competency:** Python, Godot + GDScript
- **Technical Competency:** Windows Desktops, Linux Servers, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Express, Adobe Premier, Canvas LMS, Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), Canva, AWS
- **DoD Policy:** Knowledge of CJCSM 6510.01B (Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual), DoD Directive 8570.01-M (Information Assurance Workforce Improvement Program), DoD Directive 8140.01 (Cyberspace Workforce Management, SECNAV M-5239.2 (Department of the Navy Cybersecurity Program), NIST SP 800-30 (Guide for Conducting Risk Assessments), NIST SP 800-53 (Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations)