NITASHA MATHAYAS

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LEARNING EXPERIENCE LEADER │ EDUCATION RESEARCHER

Learning experience leader and educator with career success developing and delivering educational programs, specializing in evidence-based pedagogy for K-12 science learning. Foster stakeholder relationships to identify and analyze training needs and design curriculum for engaging learning programs and solutions. Lead teams and collaborate across functions and with all levels of leadership to manage projects, delivering innovative content and technologies that maximize performance and productivity, improve processes, enhance learning experience and access, and achieve quality outcomes to drive future learning initiatives and organizational growth. Core skills include:

K-8 Science Curriculum Development | Computer Science Teacher Professional Development | Project management | Mixed Methods Research | Design-based research | Developing MR and AR learning experiences | Instructor-Led Training │ Collaboration │ Program evaluation | EdTech Design

EXPERIENCE

American Institutes for Research, (Remote) Chicago, IL   **January 2025 - May 2025**
Researcher, Science and Computer Science Education
Researcher conducting basic research and program evaluation of science and computer science education projects at national and international scales.
- Led survey development for a K-12 CS education needs assessment reaching 9,000+ district administrators and a K-2 STEM interest survey deployed across all 50 US states.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL   **January 2024 - December 2024**
Postdoctoral Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer
Research manager leading team of graduate researchers to conduct mixed methods data analysis for a $1M National Science Foundation (NSF) project (1923483).
- Awarded best research-practice paper at Society of Technology Education Conference 2025.
- Developed and led culturally responsive teaching workshops online via Zoom software (VILT) using best practices of adult learning to support 44 elementary school teachers in Delaware.
- Developed and taught methods of science teaching to over 40 preservice teachers using flipped classroom instructional model using Canvas LMS.

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN   **August 2020 - December 2023**
Postdoctoral Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer - Center for Research on Learning and Technology
Research manager leading cross-functional team for $1.2M NSF project (1908632 & 1908791) coordinating workflows among software engineers, researchers, and students while ensuring adherence to research protocols that resulted in 11 conference papers and 3 journal articles to date.
- Cultivated diverse stakeholder partnerships through collaborative grant proposal development, working with school administrators, teachers, librarians, and afterschool program directors creating MOUs and establishing data collection protocols that respected institutional requirements.
- Redesigned Canvas LMS science curriculum at Ivy Tech Community College Adjunct lecturer, to align with new science standards establishing new course offering for the following years.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL   **August 2014 - May 2020**
Graduate Research and Teaching assistant
Lead research and teaching assistant on multiple education and teaching projects developing novel technologies and curriculum materials to enhance students science learning.

- Led design improvements for 1 of 3 AR gesture-sensing science simulations in collaboration with Concord Consortium.
- Led mixed methods analysis of over 200+ student interactions to develop foundational AR simulation design principles that contributed to dissertation research, resulting in 4 journal publications, and 16 conference papers.
- Served as Instructor in charge of teaching science methods using Canvas, Moodle, & Blackboard LMS, reaching over 80 preservice teachers and awarded Excellence in Teaching Undergraduate Students in 2019.

Teach for India, Delhi, India   **May 2013 - July 2014**
Fourth grade teacher and Teaching Fellow
Classroom teacher at a public school serving female students from high-poverty backgrounds.
- Recognized for curriculum design excellence and appointed to citywide curriculum support team to mentor teaching fellows on their curricular materials.
- Developed and led the professional development of science teaching for 100+ teaching fellows demonstrating leadership in educational training program development.

iDiscoveri Education Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon, India   **April 2012 - April 2013**
K-8 Science Content Author
Developed lesson plans and scope and sequence of K-8 science curriculum guiding company textbook development.
- Designed online K-8 science teaching videos series collaborating with professional production team and editing videos in Adobe Premiere Pro and marketed across India.

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction**
  University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA

- **Master of Science (M.S.) & Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Physical Sciences**
  University of Delhi, India

CERTIFICATIONS / TRAINING

- **Instructional Design Foundations and Applications** & **Introduction to AI** from University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- **Articulate Storyline Essential Training** from LinkedIn Learning

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS / AFFILIATIONS

- **Editorial Board Member**, Journal of Research in Science Teaching and Instructional Science
- **Program Chair**, Advanced Technologies for Learning, American Educational Research Association (AERA)
  Developed and executed mentoring sessions. Identified workflow gaps and developed an onboarding program, including documentation of training sessions, transferring knowledge and improving team integration.
- **Member**, International Society for the Learning Sciences (ISLS)
- **Member**, National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST)