

Meenakshi 'Meena' Das is a masters student studying computer science at Auburn University, where she is a Graduate Research Assistant working on accessible computing education under Dr. Daniela Marghitu. This work has resulted in two publications at the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, and she was also named an [NCWIT Collegiate Award Finalist](#).

From 2016 to 2018, she interned at a telecommunications company named Adtran, Inc for a total of alternate three semesters. There, she worked on projects building microservices, virtual wireless LAN platforms and machine learning models to troubleshoot telecommunications networks. In the summer of 2018, she interned at Qualcomm in San Diego, a world leader in mobile technologies, where she developed an automation tool to help support teams solve tickets faster. Most recently in 2020, she interned at Microsoft as a Software Engineer where she built an internal platform for service engineers in the Visual Studio Organization.

Meena has shared about the challenges of having a speech disability, and now is an advocate for accessibility. She uses her life experiences and education in computer science to emphasize why it's critical for us to work toward accessibility in education and tech. She has also spoken on several panels on disability inclusion including the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, and the Disability:IN Annual Conference. In 2018, she was featured by Diet Coke as a person with disability who is shattering societal labels. Meena also represented Alabama as a disability advocate for a Ruderman Family Foundation Initiative and shared her view on the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) on its 30th anniversary.

During her internship at Microsoft in 2020, she started an accessibility learning series for interns, securing guest speakers on a range of topics such as Accessibility, mental health during COVID-19 pandemic, and connecting interns with disabilities to resources and information across the company for over 300+ interns. She is a founder of 'Working with Disabilities' support group for students and working professionals with disabilities which has over 1500+ members on social media. For her work with this group, she was inducted into the National Susan M. Daniels National Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame. She is also a member of the Accessibility Leadership Committee of a non-profit organization named Disability:IN, and previously served on the student council of the same. She has been quoted by ABC News, CNET and Forbes for her views on disability inclusion.

Meena is a free spirit, with a passion to make computing education and technology inclusive one step at a time. She received her bachelor's degree in computer science from Mississippi State University, where she founded an organization for students with disabilities, was inducted into the [Engineering College's Hall of Fame](#) and was one of the recipients of the [highest student award by the university](#).