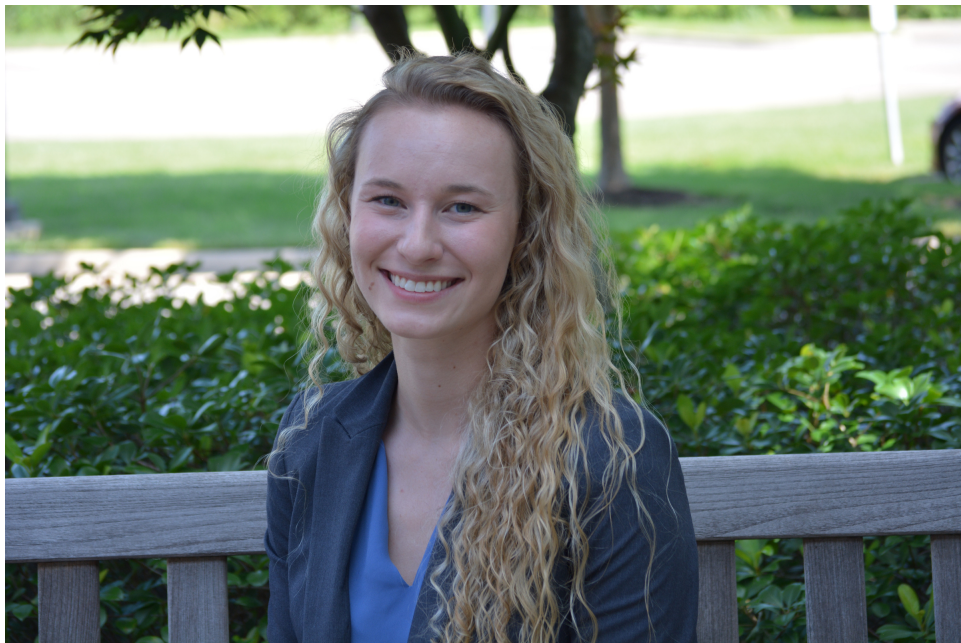


THE WOMEN ENGINEERS OF VMASC

A Social Media Series



All about McKayla Hagerty

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ZIMMERMAN

VMASC is excited to welcome Ms. McKayla Hagerty as a Project Scientist. McKayla, who grew up in Virginia Beach, will be working on various project tasks like LMS management, web design, data analysis, and game development. McKayla has a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from ODU and is currently working on her master's degree in Data Science and Analytics, also at ODU.

Why math? “I’ve always just gravitated towards math and data. Anything that is not easy to pick up is what is most interesting to me,” McKayla said. Originally, McKayla was on the pre-med track but fell in love with calculus and her family was always very supportive of her. “I took calculus because others in my family always had trouble passing the class, but I actually fell in love with it and soon found myself teaching it to other people. I eventually found that math is less about memorization, and more about understanding. If you understand the foundations, it becomes easier when it builds on itself,” McKayla said.

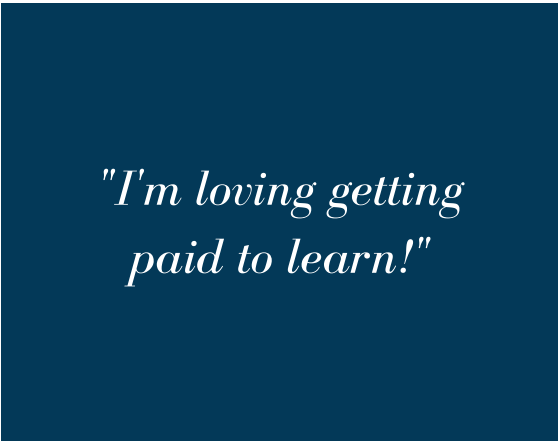
In her new role at VMASC, McKayla has been busy learning Unity, which is a real-time game development platform. “I’m loving getting paid to learn! I didn’t have any experience with C#, the programming language, so I’ve been enjoying learning that as well. I like having projects to work on because it helps me see my progress. I enjoy working on something that matters and will be usable by others,” she said.



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As an undergraduate student, McKayla worked a lot. She grew up playing soccer and was able to give back to a sport she loves by becoming a travel coach. McKayla also ran her own Etsy business, where she sold home decor, while working as a math Teaching Assistant and Supplemental Instruction Leader. “I learned a lot from those jobs. I think working while going to school keeps you more focused on classes because you learn quickly how to manage your time,” she said.

What is one thing McKayla is most proud of? “During undergrad, I took a class called Entrepreneurship in Mathematics where we looked at how to best structure math curriculum for long term student success. My final project was an interactive power point where I presented the Pythagorean Theorem in 3D. I’m proud to say that that presentation and others I created using the skills I developed are still being used by Supplemental Instruction leaders to this day. I’m really grateful that I'm able to have a lasting impact,” McKayla said.



*"I'm loving getting
paid to learn!"*