

Brenna McNally

AY 2017-18 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Information Studies

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4th year Graduate Student, RA



My service as a Research Assistant has defined my education as a graduate student. I have had the fortune of holding the same, unique assistantship throughout my MS and now PhD programs: I get to work on - and now lead - a co-design team that works with children to design technologies for children. Through this work I have been a part of the design of many amazing children's technologies with researchers throughout the university as well as numerous industry, government, and non-profit partners. Observing the real-world impacts of this research has inspired a number of publications that I have had accepted to top conferences in addition to my dissertation research.

It has been my privilege to benefit from brilliant, supportive advisors through this assistantship, and it is by working with and learning from the advisors, mentors, collaborators, students, and child design partners in my graduate assistantship that I have been successful in my independent research endeavors. Now, through leading this team, I have been able to pass on what I have learned by mentoring new undergraduate and graduate students who have joined the team and by guest lecturing about co-designing technologies with children at courses in multiple universities. In sum, working as a graduate Research Assistant has been invaluable to my future as a researcher in the international child-computer interaction community.