

Austin Hlinka

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EXPERIENCE

Senior R&D/TS&D Laboratory Technician at Dow

Auburn, MI • Dec 2024 - Present

- Manage all 3rd party certification testing for all current and upcoming products.
- Perform laboratory testing to support various different business cases.

College Co-Op at Dow

Auburn, MI • Oct 2021 - Dec 2024

- Supported application testing in the NA Warranty Lab, which conducts ~75,000 product tests annually.
 - Proficient in web-based tool to manage test requests input by customers.
- Learned management of change process to support laboratory safety.
- Championed metal recycling initiative in alignment with Dow's 2025 Sustainability Goals - Advancing a Circular Economy; Established workflow to recycle metal (~300lb/month).
- Designed posters to promote team for internal programs & events.

UX Designer at Gas Money

Saginaw, MI • Sept 2024 - Dec 2024

- Initiated a redesign project to improve user experience for the Gas Money app, addressing interface clutter and navigation challenges.
- Conducted 4 user research methods, including personas, empathy mapping, card sorting, and think-aloud protocols, with 8 participants to gather data and validate design changes.
- Presented findings and created a comprehensive recommendation report and video to align stakeholders on proposed changes.
- Redesigned the app's interface and navigation using Figma, resulting in a 25% reduction in task time and improved booking efficiency.

UX/UI Designer at Saginaw Valley State University

Saginaw, MI • Sept 2024 - Dec 2024

- Drove and led the development of the SVSU wellness app prototype to address the lack of accessible wellness resources for SVSU students.
- Designed a responsive prototype using Figma, incorporating user-centered design principles to ensure functionality and accessibility.
- Conducted user testing with a participant group of 12 individuals which ultimately led to a 20% NPS increase.
- Presented the final prototype and findings to the client, earning positive feedback and approval for the solution.

Web Designer at Copper Summit Ski Resort

Saginaw, MI • Jan 2024 - May 2024

- Initiated and led the design and development of a responsive, interactive webpage for Copper Summit Ski Resort to establish an online presence and showcase offerings.
- Coded the webpage using HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript, ensuring cross-device compatibility and navigation
- Optimized SEO through metadata, alt text, and keywords to improve search engine visibility.
- Created wireframes and structured the information architecture to enhance user experience.

SKILLS

- Technical: Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, Framer, AI, Canva, HTML/CSS, Javascript
- Design: Information Architecture, User flows, Wireframing, Prototyping, Competitive Analysis, User Testing, User Research, App Design, Web Design, Designing for Accessibility
- Collaboration: Microsoft Teams, Agile Development, Scrum, Adaptability

EDUCATION

B.A. in Graphic Design & User Experience Design Saginaw Valley State University

Sept 2020 - Dec 2024

Google UX Design Certificate

2023

Google Agile Project Management Certificate

2025