

## **Cheryl Olanga's biography**

Cheryl Olanga is a humble Kenyan girl who aspires to break generational barriers and scale up as cutting-edge computer scientist. Armed with determination and passion for solving complex issues using the power of technology, Cheryl embarked on a journey to quench her curiosity on the complexities of computers at Syracuse University in the fall of 2021.

Born on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, in Nairobi, Kenya, Cheryl always exemplified strong leadership capabilities and academic excellence in school. For this and many other reasons, she was able to be awarded a full scholarship to come study computer science at Syracuse University.

Cheryl has had the opportunity to serve on the Syracuse University NSBE e-board where she continues to demonstrate immense leadership capabilities, teamwork mentality, and the ability to provide solutions to arising problems.

She also has had the opportunity to be involved in prestigious research at the university under the Lender Center for Social Justice. Her research seeks to understand biases that lie within AI technologies that are being used by law enforcement units in the city of Syracuse. Together with four other research members, Cheryl is learning how to unearth the biases and discrimination properties that are embedded within algorithms by interviewing engineers and professors who have been involved in designing these devices.

Aside from that she also had the opportunity to intern at Ernst & Young in the summer of 2023 as a technology consultant. There she gained skills like networking with professionals, self-confidence, professionalism, adaptability, teamwork and collaboration, and other technical skills like building servers and optimizing code.

In her free time, Cheryl enjoys reading novels, swimming, going to the gym, volunteering, and singing.

In the grand scheme of things, Cheryl hopes to be an inspiration to others who have had similar experiences to her. She believes that inspiring the upcoming generation is the best investment to make, that is why she mentors those who are younger than her.