

Riku Kear

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Dedicated Mechanical Engineering student with hands-on experience designing and building animatronics for themed entertainment. Strong background in mechanical systems, 3D modeling, and fabrication, combined with proven leadership and collaboration skills. Passionate about applying engineering creativity to projects that bring immersive experiences and lasting impact to audiences.

EDUCATION

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA

Expected Graduation: 2027

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Total GPA: 3.59

Foothill High School, Santa Ana, CA

Graduated: June 2023

Total GPA: 4.4

Engineering Projects & Experience

Lead Engineer – “Jim” the Animatronic Skeleton (Themed Entertainment Association Club) | 2024-2025

- Pitched, personally funded, and served as Lead Engineer for Jim, the animatronic skeleton centerpiece of the club’s first escape room attraction.
- Designed and built mechanisms enabling head rotation, jaw movement, and glowing red eyes, with an in-progress arm-raising mechanism.
- Applied expertise in mechanical design, motor integration, and fabrication to create a reliable and interactive character.

Engineer – Animatronic Bird (Themed Entertainment Association Club) | 2025

- Contributing to the engineering of a bird animatronic for the club’s second escape room project.
- Assisting with the development of lifelike wing and head movements.
- Solely designing and fabricating a themed treasure chest to serve as both the structural support for the bird and the housing for its power system and Arduino controls.

Lead Engineer – Miniature Amusement Park Diorama (Final High School Engineering Project) | 2023

- Led a team of 4 in designing and fabricating a functioning miniature theme park ride system.
- Created all parts in SolidWorks and fabricated them with 3D printing.
- Developed a motorized track with controlled cart movement, simulating real ride operations.
- Combined mechanical systems with storytelling design, aligning with themed entertainment engineering principles.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Server, 06/2024 – Present

HONDA-YA, Tustin, California

- Recognized as one of the restaurant’s top-performing servers, excelling in multitasking and time management.
- Successfully handled high-volume service, ensuring accuracy and customer satisfaction.
- Collaborated with staff to maintain efficient operations and deliver memorable dining experiences.

Barista, 08/2021 – 11/2023

Starbucks, Santa Ana, California

- Memorized 100+ combinations of coffees, teas, and refreshers to fulfill customer’s unique beverage requests.
- Assisted with new partner training by positively reinforcing successful performance and giving respectful and encouraging coaching as needed to help them strive as baristas.
- Maintained composure during peak hours, ensuring smooth store operations and high-quality service.

SKILLS

• SolidWorks Licensed • Laser Cutting • CNC Milling • Operating Machinery • Welding • HSMWorks • 3D Printing • Microsoft Office • Intermediate Japanese-Speaker • MATLAB • C++ Coding • Team Collaboration • Leadership