Taiwo A. Togun, Ph.D.

Educator, researcher and founder

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LinkedIn · Google Scholar

I build programs and tools that bring students and scholars into real work with experts, and I study the AI they work alongside.

Current positions

Head of Computer Science · Pierrepont School, Westport, CT · 2012–present

Co-founder · SeqHub AI Academy · 2021–present

Research affiliations

Research Scientist · TRAP Lab, led by Broderick Turner · 2022–present

Research Scientist · RISE Lab, led by C. Malik Boykin · 2018–present

Education

Executive M.S., Technology Leadership | Brown University · 2021

Ph.D., Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | Yale University · 2013. Dissertation: A Computational Framework to Identify Genomic Biomarkers of Cancer

M.S., Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | Yale University · 2010

B.S., Mathematics & Computer Information Systems, summa cum laude | University of West Alabama · 2005

Teaching

Head of Computer Science | Pierrepont School | 2012–present

- Built the computer science program into a full curriculum across grades 3–12, reaching about three quarters of the school, and teach it with one other instructor. Teach primarily in the middle and high school.
- Designed and taught courses in Python and problem-solving, computational and inferential thinking, data storytelling and algorithmic fairness, machine learning and neural networks, and AI evaluation and interpretability.
- Introduced Project Invent and co-teach it. Student teams design for people in their community; projects include a smart wheelchair attachment for use in bad weather.
- Founded the annual Pierrepont Hour of Code, through which older students teach computer science to younger students and faculty.

Industry Professor | NYU Tandon School of Engineering | 2022–2023

Taught in the Bioinformatics Master's Program and designed curriculum integrating machine learning into biological data analysis.

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Yale School of Public Health | 2011–2012

Introductory Biostatistics.

Research

I evaluate language models: what shifts their judgments, and what they encode about persuasion, harm and refusal. Methods include linear probes over hidden-layer activations and experiments on how demographic framing, elicitation context, and incentives affect model judgments. I also design AI learning systems that support student agency, including Look-Think-Do and an interactive module on algorithmic bias developed with the RISE Lab.

Earlier work includes interdisciplinary approaches to perceptions of algorithmic fairness and computational biology research at Yale on genomic prediction and cancer biomarkers.

Selected talks

Audio Intelligence: A Transparent Framework for Analyzing Long-Form Speech. With Dr. Andre Martin, University of Notre Dame. TRAP Lab · September 2026.

Exploring the Representation of Clickability in Large Language Models. TRAP Lab · November 2025.

Research reports and other writing

Hsien, H.-Y., Kiev, B., Klenoff, A., Olorunnishola, O., Phillips, J., & Togun, T. (2026). Probing LLM Preferences: Demographic Framing, Elicitation Context, and Incentive-Driven Trade-offs. Apart Research research sprint report.

Togun, T.A. (2022). Purpose and Problem Solving: Developing Leaders in the Classroom. Next Gen Learning.

Selected peer-reviewed publications

Boykin, C.M., Dasch, S.T., Rice, V., Lakshminarayanan, V.R., Togun, T.A., & Brown, S.M. (2021). Opportunities for a More Interdisciplinary Approach to Measuring Perceptions of Fairness in Machine Learning. EAAMO ’21, ACM. doi:10.1145/3465416.3483302

Hui, P., Gysler, S., Uduman, M., Togun, T.A., et al. (2018). MicroRNA Signatures Discriminate Between Uterine and Ovarian Serous Carcinomas. Human Pathology. doi:10.1016/j.humpath.2018.02.019

Vassilakopoulou, M., Togun, T., Dafni, U., Cheng, H., Bordeaux, J., et al. (2014). In Situ Quantitative Measurement of HER2 mRNA Predicts Benefit from Trastuzumab-Containing Chemotherapy in a Cohort of Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients. PLoS ONE, 9(6), e99131. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0099131

Liu, Z., Hu, Z., Pan, X., Li, M., Togun, T.A., et al. (2011). Germline Competency of Parthenogenetic Embryonic Stem Cells from Immature Oocytes of Adult Mouse Ovary. Human Molecular Genetics, 20(7), 1339–1352. doi:10.1093/hmg/ddr016

Look-Think-Do: An AI Co-teacher. With J Phillips. Yale Innovation Summit, Yale Ventures · May 2025.

The Look-Think-Do Approach: AI-Assisted Education for Agency and Creativity. TRAP Lab · April 2025.

Towards Evaluating Look-Think-Do: AI Coteacher and Learning Management Platform. TRAP Lab Unconference · June 2025.

GPT’s Race and Gender Biases in Hiring: Replication and Insights. TRAP Lab · October 2024.

Ventures

SeqHub AI Academy | Co-founder, with J Phillips | 2021–present

Co-founded a project-based research and mentorship academy bringing motivated students in grades 8–12 together with university scholars from my home country, Nigeria, and experts working at the edge of their fields. Programs include Discovery Labs, Project Labs, and individual mentorship.

- Create opportunities for students and scholars to work on substantive research and applied projects, using AI as a tool and collaborator and, in some projects, as a subject of investigation.
- Academy participants co-authored "Trustworthiness of LLMs in Grading and Demographic Fairness in Medical RAG," WiML at NeurIPS 2025, and have contributed to two Apart Research sprint submissions in AI evaluation.
- Three Nigerian scholars who participated in the Academy are now pursuing Ph.D.s at Brown, Carnegie Mellon, and UT Austin; a fourth is pursuing a master's at Carnegie Mellon.

Look-Think-Do | Co-creator

Co-created the Look-Think-Do learning framework and AI companion with my Academy co-founder, who built the initial prototype. Lead product development and educational design, informed by sustained use in the Academy and my classroom.

- Developed an early system for evaluating and refining prompt structures across stages of student engagement; recruited the development team and guide refinement with a technical program manager.
- Lead the development direction of the educator module creation lab, making it easier for educators to build learning experiences on the platform.

Additional classroom use includes Dr. Andre Martin's negotiation course at the University of Notre Dame and a class taught by Dr. Nnamdi Nwanze at North Central College, Illinois.

SeqHub Analytics, LLC | Co-founder | 2014–present

Automation, data engineering, and AI systems for charter school networks, nonprofits, and growing enterprise teams.

InclusionBridge, Inc. | Co-founder and Executive Director | 2021–2025

Built a pathway into data science for high school and university students from underrepresented communities. Raised more than $150,000 from individual and corporate donors. Developed the Bridge to Data Fundamentals curriculum, offered at Mercy University in spring 2024. Participants went on to study data science and related fields at Wesleyan, the University of Connecticut, Amherst, and other institutions.

Tiny & Great, Inc. | Co-founder and Advisor | 2019–present

Student-led nonprofit running STEM and coding programs in the US, Nigeria, and Senegal. Coding clubs serve about 75 students in Nigerian public schools. The organization funded 19 pediatric cataract surgeries in Nigeria in 2019.

Teaching philosophy

I learn most when I am learning alongside my students, so I build classrooms where they work on real problems with people who know more than any of us. I give them room to make mistakes, argue, and resolve things themselves, and I listen to their reasoning before offering mine. Struggle is usually where the learning happens, and part of my job is to protect it, including from AI, which should widen what a student can attempt rather than replace the attempting.

Awards

Project Invent Fellow of the Year, 2023 · Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Yale University, 2014 · Biotechnology Minority Fellow, Biotechnology Institute, 2010