

# Sailesh Pujara

saileshpujara567@gmail.com | (531)-229-3150 | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Portfolio](#)

## SUMMARY

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Product builder with 3 years of experience running cross-functional programs, conducting user research, and launching products in ambiguous environments. Led beta testing for Duo (AI-powered finance app) with 10 households by selecting participants, gathering feedback, and shipping fixes within 48 hours. Managed enterprise rollouts across 8 campuses serving 50,000+ users, coordinating with 10+ stakeholders from discovery to launch. Passionate about products that give people back their time, thrives at the intersection of operations, user empathy, and fast execution.

## PRODUCT PROJECTS

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### Duo: The Financial Harmony App | Founder & PM | Nov 2025 – Present

- Launched beta program to 10 users across 5 households; recruited and onboarded beta participants, conducted user testing sessions, and iterated on UX based on qualitative feedback.
- Built a feedback-to-fix pipeline: identified 6 critical bugs through user observation, prioritized by impact, and shipped fixes within 48 hours by demonstrating the rapid iteration loop the program required.
- Authored comprehensive PRD with MoSCoW prioritization after conducting competitive analysis of 5 apps; identified the 'yours, mine, and ours' gap that no existing product addressed.
- **AI-Enabled Feature:** Shipped AI Financial Therapist: chat feature powered by custom financial aggregation API (anomaly detection, period-over-period comparisons) and Gemini 2.5 Flash with tone-engineered prompts, couples ask 'Why are we over budget?' and get data-grounded, empathetic answers.

### MindGarden: AI Mental Wellness Companion | PM & Lead Developer | ODSC x Google Cloud Hackathon — Finalist

- Identified opportunity to improve mental wellness app engagement through gamification; designed "Emotion Garden" feature where user moods grow virtual plants, powered by 5 AI agents delivering personalized CBT insights via sentiment analysis.
- Led 24-hour hackathon from concept to working prototype with real-time mood visualization and AI journaling prompts (React Native, FastAPI, Gemini API); selected as a finalist among 87 teams.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Software Engineer I | University of Nebraska System | Lincoln, NE | February 2023 - Present

*Drove end-to-end development of enterprise solutions for an 8-campus university and state college system serving 50,000+ students, collaborating with cross-functional teams to deliver institution-wide improvements in student services.*

- **AI Product Strategy & Evaluation:** Led cross-functional evaluation of AI documentation tool; coordinated proof-of-concept development, measured performance metrics, and presented data-backed recommendations to senior stakeholders, influencing architecture decisions for the entire system.
- **Product Strategy, Development, and Execution:** Drove end-to-end launch of digital transcript system across 8 campuses: conducted discovery with 10+ stakeholders (registrars, IT, admissions), defined requirements, managed rollout logistics, and achieved 40% faster transfers for 10,000 students annually.
- **Product Development & Prioritization:** Identified top user pain point (manual project requests taking 2+ weeks) through stakeholder interviews, prioritized it over 3 competing initiatives, and launched a full-stack solution using agile methodology, enabling 500+ users to streamline requests and reducing initiation time by 30%.
- **Data-Informed Platform Development:** Launched page builder platform to 1,000+ non-technical users across 5 campuses; analyzed content creation workflows to identify friction points, iterated on the interface based on usage patterns, and drove adoption across all campuses.

### Software Engineering Intern | University of Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha, NE | June 2022 - December 2022

*Collaborated with clinical leadership and development teams to deliver UX improvements and digital solutions for 3,500+ healthcare professionals, driving enhanced patient care experiences and operational efficiency at a leading medical center.*

- **User Research & Product Design:** Developed and refined healing arts platform wireframes through iterative feedback sessions with 40+ healthcare stakeholders, delivering a user-centered design that enhanced patient experience.
- **Product Strategy & Development:** Conceptualized and launched a healing arts website through collaboration with clinical stakeholders, developing a responsive interface serving 3,500+ healthcare users and driving a 15% increase in engagement.
- **Stakeholder Management & Communication:** Facilitated communication between development teams and stakeholders, translating business requirements into actionable development stories and ensuring 100% on-time project completion.

## EDUCATION

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### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*BS Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics*

Lincoln, NE

2022

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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**Product Management:** User Interviewing, Program Management, Feedback Synthesis, Product Strategy, User Research, A/B Testing, Beta Operations, Data-Driven Decision

**Technical Skills:** Jira, Git, Figma, Postman, SQL, Java, SpringBoot, Python, JavaScript, React.js, TypeScript, React Native

**AI Tools:** Claude, Cursor, ChatGPT, Google Gemini API, Anthropic API, Prompt Engineering