Jen Looper
Head of Academic Advocacy | Educator

I am the Head of Academic Advocacy at AWS, where I lead a team building programs for postsecondary students worldwide within Developer Relations. A dedicated community builder, I founded Front-End Foxes Inc, an international nonprofit for women developers with chapters worldwide. Specializing in curriculum design for computer science, I built viral open-source curricula and student experiences when leading the Academic Team at Microsoft and am the author of two books published by Wiley: Computer Science for Kids, aligned to CSTA standards for grades 6-8, and The Illustrated AWS Cloud, a visual guide to AWS. As a technical thought leader, writer and university lecturer, I thrive in the role of manager, strategist, speaker, teacher, curriculum designer, developer and author.

Experience

2022 - Present
Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Head of Academic Advocacy

- Hired and lead a global team of Program Managers, Community Managers, and Developer Advocates
- Work on the Leadership Team in support of students within Developer Relations
- Founded global AWS Cloud Clubs, currently with 20K membership
- Focused on creating innovative content and event experiences to benefit postsecondary students
- Designed and launched the Student Hub: https://s12d.com/students

2019 - 2022
Microsoft

Principal Education Developer Advocate Lead

- Led team of Developer Advocates in Academic Advocacy, interfacing with many other student-focused teams, including sponsoring, coaching and mentoring advocates.
- Led the Regional team of Developer Advocates for US/LATAM/Canada to oversee all regional activities
- Worked with University Relations and other internal groups to deliver appropriate content in venues such as hackathons and workshops
- Developed innovative Microsoft Learn online paths to teach web technologies and a new career learning path (aka.ms/tech-intern)
- Managed Museums and Libraries Pilot program on Academic Team, interfacing with many museums and leading a project build with the Cooper Hewitt Museum
- Led team to develop 5 popular online curricula with millions of page views on GitHub (aka.ms/webdev-beginners and aka.ms/ml-beginners).
- Built three innovative 'Mystery' experiences released on microsoft.com, experimenting with gamified learning interfaces

2018-2023
Front-End Foxes, Inc.

Founder and CEO

- Founded a worldwide nonprofit dedicated to increasing diversity in the front-end developer community that scaled rapidly, with over 1500 women on Slack
- Maintained multiple active chapters from Colombia to Japan
- Managed staff, enrollments, and admin tasks for operations including taxes, payroll, and nonprofit administration
- Created and managed workshop content and logistics
- Opened a free bootcamp for women, teaching multi-week cohorts worldwide with paid instructors using our own vetted curriculum
- Successfully delivered 4 boot camp cohorts, with the final one sponsored by Reddit, educating hundreds of women worldwide

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Contact

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Website
https://www.jenlooper.com

Education

1998
PhD and MA - French
University of California, Berkeley

1992
BA - French Studies/Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Wellesley College

Expertise

- Curriculum Design
- Education and Instruction
- Front-End Development
- Content authoring

Credentials

Fulbright Scholar to France - 1995-6

Certified AWS Cloud Practitioner

Lecturer in Computer Science at Boston University Metropolitan College

GitHub:
https://github.com/jlooper

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/jenlooper

YouTube
https://s12d.com/jen-conferences

LinkedIn
https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenlooper/

Technical Expertise

HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL, NoSQL, Front-End frameworks, web technologies, serverless technologies, Python, applied machine learning, AI

Communities

Boston Women Who Code

Boston Vue.js Meetup

Co-Organizer, Boston JavaScript Meetup

Publications

https://www.jenlooper.com

https://dev.to/jenlooper

https://buildon.aws

https://cs4kids.club

https://illustratedaws.cloud

https://jenlooper.gumroad.com/

Languages

Bilingual English, French

Reads Spanish, Italian, Latin

2014-2019
Progress Software

Senior Developer Advocate

- I was a senior member of the Developer Relations team, where I advocated for NativeScript on the Mobility Team
- Managed the 50-member Progress Developer Experts program, bringing it back from defunct to a fresh and vibrant community.
- Moderated the NativeScript Community Slack Channel comprised of 9000+ developers, including creating periodic app contests and community activities
- Created the annual NativeScript Ambassadors program - 20 Ambassadors led by Developer Experts under my direction for a summer cohort to grow the NativeScript community
- Presented 3-4 Product-based webinars per year
- Attended 20+ conferences per year, managing booth and giving talks and keynoting
- Attended and spoke at local meetups in Boston and elsewhere, as requested
- Led Boston Vue.js Meetup
- Wrote regularly for Front-End Foxes blog, Telerik Developer Network, Progress and NativeScript Blogs, and on external sites

2012 - 2014
World Singles

Technical Lead: Mobile Web and Apps Development

- Worked on all front-end development of all affiliated World Singles sites

2010 - 2012
Paid.com

Manager, Technical Department Lead and Senior Developer

- Managed all aspects of web development departmental workload for client-facing and internal websites

2006-2010
Sun Life Financial

Senior Applications Developer/Analyst and Technical Team Lead

- Front-end development team lead and individual contributor

2003 - 2006
Achievement Technologies, Inc.

Web Developer

- Developed, managed, and maintained frontend, middleware, and backend for achievementtech.com

2001 - 2003
JFL Media

Developer

- Created all front-end, middleware and backend content for the web sites, including all graphics and Flash movies with ActionScript linking front end to backend database

2000 - 2014
ClosingCounsel.com

Web Designer and Content Coordinator