

nfte! MIDWEST: CHICAGO YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

The Road to Nationals May 25, 2022

Presented by

EY, Ingredion, and Slalom

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Welcome

Welcome!

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)'s mission is to activate the entrepreneurial mindset and build startup skills in an entire generation of young people. Now more than ever, it is critically important for us to build the next generation of thinkers, makers, and problem solvers. This became even more evident as we battled a once in a lifetime global pandemic and worked hard to create a more racially just society. Throughout this year of historic challenges, NFTE Midwest has worked together with our educators, students, coaches, and partners, to make sure our entrepreneurial learners could continue to build their skills and become our future workforce.

This year NFTE was able to reach over 5,000 students throughout the Midwest with our innovative, virtual hands-on curriculum, equipping them with the mindset necessary to prepare for success in school, college, and the workforce. Our NFTE Midwest students have been working diligently throughout the school year to develop, refine, and perfect their business plans despite not always being in a classroom with their teachers or coaches. Throughout this year, we have had over 270 volunteer coaches providing over 1,100 hours of coaching to our students to ensure they are able to not only succeed in their NFTE classrooms but in their future careers and academic pursuits.

On May 3rd and 5th, at our quarterfinal and semi-final round of competitions, nearly 70 businesses presented to judges. Winners earned a spot to compete in tonight's Regional Finals Competition.

Today's 1st and 2nd place winners will be heading to the NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, held in October, where they will compete against finalists from all over the country. The winner of the national competition has the potential to win additional prize money and compete in the NFTE World Challenge.

We want to take a moment to recognize our educators for their fearless dedication to our students throughout this year. We could not accomplish all we do without you. We also want to take a moment to thank our volunteer coaches and corporate and individual partners who have continued to support NFTE's work despite the ever-changing economy. And last but definitely not least, we congratulate all of today's competitors for all the hard work and dedication it has taken to get to the NFTE Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Regional Finals.

We are so proud of all of you!

Dr. Scott Nasatir, Executive Director, NFTE Midwest
Lauren Patrick, Lead Program Associate, NFTE Midwest
Tiana Schlottman, Development Manager, NFTE Midwest
Aliyah Clark, Public Ally

Agenda

NFTE Midwest: Chicago Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Finals Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Emcee

Madelyn Jackson, **NFTE Class of 2021**
Founder & CEO, P.A.C.A.

Judges

Deandre Allen NFTE Alumnus, **Profs Academy**
Richard Bloomfield, **Funkytown Brewery**
& **UChicago Impact**
Primit Mehta, **EY**
Rob Ritchie, **Ingredion Mexico**
Carrie Steyer, **Slalom Chicago**

Finalists

Autumn Harmon - Express Yourself Studio - Thornwood High School
Joannaly Sanchez - KeepIt100! - Holy Trinity High School
Nasjha Lucas & Tristan Peeler - NTC - Perspectives Leadership Academy and High School of Technology

Volunteer of the Year Awards

Alumni Expo Fast-Pitch

Winner Announcements & Closing

Dr. Scott Nasatir, **Executive Director, NFTE Midwest**
Lauren Patrick, **Lead Program Associate, NFTE Midwest**



Whose tomorrow will you change today?

We are committed to helping underserved students develop the entrepreneurial mindsets and skills needed to thrive in the working world of tomorrow.

Learn more at ey.com/us/cr

The better the question. The better the answer.
The better the world works.

Student Finalists

Express Yourself Studios

Autumn Harmon – Thornwood High School

Express Yourself Studios is a space for children, teens, and young adults to use the art of dance and music to decompress from external challenges. Participants' mental health is important, and Express Yourself Studio is helping people dance through life's tribulations.

KeptIt100!

Joannaly Sanchez – Holy Trinity High School

KeptIt100! provides effective phone chargers that have wireless charging options and help to sustain battery life.

NTC

Nasjha Lucas & Tristan Peeler – Perspectives Leadership Academy and High School of Technology

NTC offers sustainable and reusable pregnancy tests that help women appreciate their bodies.



2019 finalists with the judges (c) Carasco Photography

Judges

Deandre Allen Founder

Profs Academy
NFTE Class of 2016

Deandre Allen is a NFTE alumnus, 2016 Challenge winner, and founder of Profs Academy, an Education Technology startup focused on providing urban schools with a real-world learning curriculum. Since the conception of his start-up company Deandre and his team have won several awards such as the Robert F Kennedy Urban Education Award, and EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award Scholarship and have been featured in various publications including Chicago Inno. Deandre has gone on to sit on the Advisory Board for Schools That Can, a national nonprofit whose mission is to build education to employment pathways serving high school and middle school students with a focus on career readiness. Deandre is also a recent graduate from Southern Illinois University, studying Persuasive Rhetoric and Communication.



Richard Bloomfield CEO and Co-founder

Funkytown Brewery

Associate Director of Survey Unit Partner Engagement & Experience

UChicago Impact

Richard Bloomfield grew up in Oak Park and attended Grambling State University, an HBCU in Louisiana where he received a BS in Marketing. He has a broad skill-set with over 10 years of project management experience, holding certifications in project management, tableau business intelligence software and Amazon Web Services cloud computing.

He is currently the Associate Director of Survey Unit Partner Engagement & Experience for UChicago Impact. In this role, he manages the 5Essentials survey implementation for the Illinois State Board of Education and smaller districts around the country. He is also the CEO and co-founder of Funkytown Brewery, a start-up, Black-owned brewery in Chicago that launched October 2021. Richard's current roles provide purpose as his work in education promotes positive student outcomes in schooling and leading a Black-owned brewery breaking barriers in regards to diversity, equity & inclusion.



Judges, *continued*

Pramit Mehta

Partner

EY

Pramit Mehta is a Partner with Ernst & Young based in Chicago. Over the past 25 years, Pramit has offered financial statement assurance services to clients ranging from fast growing entrepreneurial companies to large well established global conglomerates. Pramit has extensive international capital market experience having worked with Ernst & Young in Zurich, Switzerland and Mumbai for over a decade each.

Pramit serves on the NFTE Mid-West Advisory Board and is key member of the NFTE community. In addition, Pramit also spends time to mentor young entrepreneurs as part of EY's Entrepreneur Access Network.

Pramit is a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Accountant. He lives in the north suburb of Chicago with his wife and two kids.



Rob Ritchie

Regional President

Ingredion Mexico

Rob Ritchie is the Regional President for Ingredion Mexico, U.S./Canada Sweetener & Industrial Solutions, Kerr Concentrates and Global Core Strategy. In this role he is responsible for the overall strategy for these four business units and leading the global strategy for Ingredion's core business. Prior to his current role Rob was the President and General Director for Ingredion Mexico. In this role Rob had full profit & loss accountability for the business and was responsible for driving the strategic growth of the Mexican business. He also served as Vice President Commercial, U.S./Canada where he headed sales, technical service, applications, and the product management functions for the sweeteners, industrial and ingredients business in the U.S./Canada region.

Rob started his career with Casco in Canada and throughout his 25-year career with Ingredion he has held increasingly senior managerial and commercial roles. He has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Lake Head University and a Master's of Business Administration from Loyola University. Since 2014 he has served as a board member for the Corn Refiners Association.



Judges, *continued*

Carrie Steyer General Manager *Slalom Chicago*



Carrie Steyer is a leader in the fields of artificial intelligence, analytics, and strategy alignment with almost 30 years of experience. Recognized as one of Consulting's 2020 Women Leaders in Technology, Carrie drives modern engineering transformations at Fortune 500 companies and beyond. She is an advocate for the power of data and insights to enable social transparency and she works with leading public sector organizations to bring those insights to life.

Degree of challenge and level of passion are highly correlated for Carrie — the more complex the issue, the more driven she is to develop a strategy and lead the resolution. She combines the problem-solving strengths of her mathematics background with a uniquely people-centric approach.

As General Manager of Slalom Chicago, Carrie is committed to creating a place where people love their work and life; this vision includes Slalom employees, our clients, partners, and broader community. She is known for growing and developing future leaders and proudly serves as Slalom Chicago's executive sponsor for Inclusion & Diversity. Carrie is also a member of Greater Leadership Chicago's 2021 Daniel Burnham Fellowship, a program for senior executives shaping the future of Chicago.

Carrie holds Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from University of Notre Dame and a Certificate of Applied Statistics from Texas A&M University. She is a mother of six (two human and four canine) and loves the Chicago Cubs as if they were her children.

Leaders

NFTE Midwest Advisory Board

Venu Raghavan (Chair), Wasson Enterprise

Maxine Clark, The Delmar DiviNe

Patricia Hagen, Ph.D., TEC/T-Rex

Mike Jortberg, Slalom

Art McCoy, Ph.D., SAGES LLC

Pramit Mehta, EY

Chris Moore, EY

Jonathan Poyner, M Fund Distributors

Jesse Sanders, Clayco

Gary VonderHaar, Mastercard

Kristal Walton, GSTV

Gary Weintraub, Stasher

Brian Williams, District 14, St.Louis

Kevin Wilson, SBDC University of Missouri

Proud to do our part to help bright minds achieve bright futures.

NFTE is dedicated to empowering students and giving them a chance at a brighter future.

An idea we can all get behind.

At Citi, we commend NFTE on their efforts and are pleased to support their invaluable work.

Citi Foundation



Alumni Emcee

Madelyn Jackson

NFTE Class of 2021

Founder, P.A.C.A

Madelyn became a NFTE 2021 National Champion with her business pitch for P.A.C.A. Madelyn created P.A.C.A. to offer a learning system which allows non-verbal children and those on the autism spectrum to communicate by the push of an on-screen icon on any touch screen device. The system can be programmed to use the guardian's voice, and icons and words can be personalized, all with the child's comfort in mind. She also represented the U.S.A. at NFTE's inaugural World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in April. Madelyn attends Holy Trinity High School and fully intends on going to college in the future – possibly Northwestern, University of Chicago, or University of Wisconsin at Madison.



We are proud to support the next generation of innovators in their pursuits to achieving their entrepreneurial dreams!

MARY KAY

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Entrepreneurship

Volunteers of the Year

We are immensely grateful to all of our volunteers. This year, we are especially proud to celebrate our **Individual Volunteer of the Year, Venu Raghavan**. Venu has been a NFTE volunteer for many years, and currently chairs our NFTE Midwest Advisory Board. We are enormously grateful to Venu for his example as a leader and volunteer for our students and our community.

And congratulations to our **Corporate Volunteer of the Year, Wasson Enterprise**. Wasson provides volunteers and funding support to our Chicago area youth in so many ways, advocating for NFTE teachers and learners throughout the community. Thank you Wasson Enterprise, for your dedication to the entrepreneurial mindset!



Get Involved

Learn more about NFTE

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)'s mission is to activate the entrepreneurial mindset and build start-up skills in youth from under-resourced communities to ensure their success and to create a more vibrant society. As a global nonprofit organization, NFTE provides high-quality entrepreneurship education to middle and high school students from under-resourced communities, as well as programs for college students and adults. NFTE reaches 50,000+ students annually in 25 states across the U.S. and offers programs in 20 additional countries. We have educated more than a million students through in-school, out-of-school, college, and summer camp programs, offered in person and online. To learn more about how we are promoting inclusive capitalism and building the next generation of diverse entrepreneurs, visit www.nfte.com.

[JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY! CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Opportunity, initiative, and innovation.



Slalom is proud to support NFTE in their mission to help young entrepreneurs take initiative and innovate in the face of challenges. Together, we can dream bigger, move faster, and build better tomorrows for all.

Learn more about us at [Slalom.com](https://www.slalom.com)

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Ingredion is proud to support

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship

Midwest Youth Entrepreneurship Competition

We bring people, nature, and technology together to make life better.



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NFTE National Supporters

Thanks to the commitment of NFTE's national donors, an increasing number of young people are prepared with the entrepreneurial mindset and startup skills required to succeed in today's innovation economy.

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