



MIDWEST REGION
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CHALLENGE

The Road to Nationals

May 24, 2023

Presented by

EY, Horizon, Ingredion, and Slalom

Signature support from:
GSTV

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Welcome

Welcome!

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)'s mission is to ignite the entrepreneurial mindset with unique learning experiences that empower all students to own their futures. 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 continue to create a more racially just society. Throughout these past few years 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 2nd and 4th, at our quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the youth entrepreneurship competition, nearly 70 businesses were presented to judges. Winners earned a spot to compete in NFTE's 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 are excited to showcase tonight's presenters, who will be vying for additional seed money for their respective businesses.

We want to take a moment to recognize our educators for their fearless dedication to our students throughout this year, and every 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
Vanee Brown, Volunteer Coordinator, NFTE Midwest & South

Agenda

NFTE Midwest Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Finals **Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

- Emcee** Autumn Harmon, **NFTE Class of 2022**
Founder, Express Yourself Studio
- Special Guests** **Funkytown Brewery**
Richard Bloomfield, Zachary Day and Gregory Williams
- Judges** Erica Devieux, **Black Professionals Network**
Jami Ellis, **Horizon Therapeutics**
Prमित Mehta, **EY**
Natalie Resteghene, **Slalom Chicago**
Rob Ritchie, **Ingredion Mexico**
- Finalists** **Nokki - Malachi Davis & Ivan Walker - Thornton Township High School**
KiaKoutur - Kiaira Merrill - Saint Louis Science Center
StudyLair - Lacey Munoz-Swedberg - Beloit Memorial High School
- Volunteer of the Year Awards**
Alumni Expo Fast-Pitch
Dr. Scott Nasatir, **Executive Director, NFTE Midwest**
Lauren Patrick, **Lead Program Associate, NFTE Midwest**
Anthony Curtis, **Sr. Manager, Volunteerism & Org. Culture**
- Winner Announcements & Closing**
Dr. J.D. LaRock, **President & CEO, NFTE**

Student Finalists

Nokki - *Malachi Davis & Ivan Walker* – *Thornton Township High School*
Nokki is an alternative sugar for people who choose a healthier option, because of health conditions such as diabetes, or simply to live a healthier lifestyle. Nokki does not cause a spike in blood sugar or insulin, and contains only .24 calories per gram.

KiaKoutur - *Kiaira Merrill*– *Saint Louis Science Center*
Through a collaborative process, KiaKoutur upcycles previously used clothing items, to accomplish our mission of helping recycle the earth's resources, making it a better place to live.

StudyLair - *Lacey Munoz-Swedberg*– *Beloit Memorial High School*
StudyLair offers students in the School District of Beloit a safe space to go after school or in the summer where they can safely and calmly study, complete homework, engage with tutors, and interact with other like-minded students.



2022 finalists with the judges (c) Carasco Photography

Business Expo

Students from many of our schools are exhibiting their business ideas during the cocktail hour. Please visit their tables to find out more!

The three businesses with ***asterisks** will also be pitching during the judge deliberation, and have advanced to represent the Midwest at the National Challenge.

Ball Hard, Win Forever - Ja'Una Williams, *Dreamchasers*

Busy Bees Nail Salon - Mariah Thomas, *Dreamchasers*

***Cloudwalkr** - Noah Hood, *Holy Trinity High School*

***Crewtawn Commissions** - Tobias Maserang, *South Technical High School*

***Lei's Jewels** - Lelia Vasquez, *Valley STEM Academy*

Little Learners Daycare - Chrinekia Carter, *Perspectives IIT Math and Science Academy*

Magic Hair Kit - Ashley Thomas, *Perspectives IIT Math and Science Academy*

Seguro Watch - Tashari Wooten, *Thornwood High School*

Special Minds - Martinique Neal, *Perspectives IIT Math and Science Academy*

Todo's Place - Angel Wilson, *Thornton Township High School*

Trinkets - Jayla Hassell, *Dreamchasers*

Vitalize - NoLynn Fallin, *Beloit Memorial High School*

Opportunity, initiative, and innovation



Slalom is proud to sponsor 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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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



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The better the world works.



Building a better
working world

Guest Speakers

Funkytown Brewery

Chicago, IL

Richard Bloomfield, Zachary Day and Gregory Williams are childhood friends who share a love for their hometown of Chicago, IL and a passion for homebrewing. They partnered with the Pilot Project Brewing in Logan Square, a brewery incubator designed to launch new brands, to increase capacity through manufacturing and to learn the business of beer. Their team is now ready to take the next step with increased distribution and launching a brewpub of our own. Richard served as a judge for the 2022 NFTE Finals in Chicago and we are glad to have all three of them here to kick off this competition.



Did you enjoy the sweet treats we gave out at the challenge?

Follow up with NFTE Alumna, Chef Tamia, to order your own!

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Judges

Erica Devieux

Chicago Chapter President

Black Professionals Network

Erica Devieux is the Chicago Chapter President of the Black Professionals Network and works as a Brand Manager in the Travel Tech industry. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration at Florida International University and her MBA at Clark Atlanta University. She was born and raised in Miami, FL to immigrant parents from Haiti who instilled in her a sense of pride in where she came from and for the sacrifices made to be where she is today.



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 Midwest 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.



Judges, *continued*

Jami Ellis

Vice President, New Product Planning

Horizon Therapeutics

Jami brings more than 25 years of cross-functional expertise within the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. She has experience across a breadth of therapeutic areas, including virology, immunology, neuroscience, and hemophilia and has led strategic efforts for assets in all phases of development.



Jami currently leads the new product planning organization at Horizon Therapeutics. She joined Horizon's commercial development team in 2015 where she evaluated hundreds of business development opportunities and led commercial efforts for HZN-825. Prior to joining Horizon, Jami was with Baxalta where she was responsible for developing and executing global launch strategies for hemophilia products and anti-TNF biosimilars. She also spent 14 years at Abbott/AbbVie where she led the market development strategy for the HUMIRA psoriasis launch and was responsible for commercial strategy for immunology and neuroscience pipeline assets. Jami graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University.

Natalie Resteghene

Managing Director

Slalom Chicago

Natalie Resteghene is a Managing Director at Slalom Chicago, where she oversees business development with our most critical technology partners. Natalie is responsible for managing, executing, and optimizing partner programs and collaborating closely with Slalom's partner sales channels in service of our mutual customers.



As such, Natalie possesses a deep understanding of our technology partners, including their incentive programs, enablement offerings, and success measures. She builds strong and trusted relationships within Slalom and partner ecosystem. As an Alliances leader, Natalie possesses a blend of program management, client service, marketing, and sales experience. She is committed to building lasting relationships at all levels of an organization, and she is driven to identify and create opportunities to achieve incremental revenue growth for both Slalom and its technology partners.



Judges, continued

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.

Leadership

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

Citi Foundation



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, Mike Jortberg**, from Slalom Chicago. Mike is a NFTE Midwest Board member and avid volunteer, always willing to be a helping hand and constantly looking for new and creative ways to help our students advance. For the last few years, Mike has been providing schools with computers that his fellow Slalom colleagues are no longer using to help bridge the digital divide we often see in under-resourced communities. We truly appreciate his passion and commitment to our teachers and students.

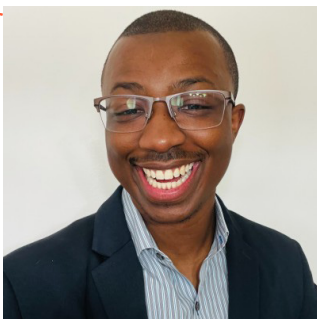


We also want to offer heartfelt congratulations to our **Corporate Volunteer of the Year, Ingredion**, who reengaged with us in 2020 as a volunteer and funding partner and has grown their partnership to become more and more meaningful each year. They have committed to multiple yearly coaching sessions and continue to search for new ways to be better partners and to engage our students. This year, they have discussed increasing their funding contribution to provide scholarships as well as giving our students the opportunity to engage with their company through possible internship opportunities. Thank you, Ingredion!



Ingredion

We are especially fortunate to have our **Volunteer of the Year for Alumni Programs, Kristoffer Kizer**, here in Chicago. An Emerging VC with a background in marketing and market research, Kris has been a long-standing volunteer for NFTE and this year stepped in to work with several members of our alumni Founders Forum, coaching the founders on launching, growing and scaling their businesses. He takes time off from his work to support NFTE students and provides valuable feedback to the NFTE team after each event. We are honored to be able to recognize Kris in person tonight!



Alumni Emcee

Autumn Harmon

NFTE Class of 2022

Founder, Express Yourself Studios

Autumn Harmon is a graduating senior at Thornwood High School in South Holland, IL. After winning the NFTE Midwest Regional Finals in 2022, she went on to compete in the National Challenge in NYC. Her school district honored her with a District 205 Medal of Honor in June 2022. Autumn also received the South Suburban Small Business Association's 2022 Annual Summit Award, and won second place for the WDB Marketing L.E.G.A.C.Y Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She was also the youngest panelist to speak at the *She Owns It, She Biz* Conference. Autumn's Express Yourself Studio was created to provide a safe space for children, teens, and young adults to use dancing and singing as an artistic emotional outlet, allowing those with mental stress to be happy and express themselves. She continues to work to attract customers and market her business to the world, and just won NFTE's Entrepreneurship 2 competition.



Get Involved!

Learn more about NFTE

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) ignites the entrepreneurial mindset with unique learning experiences that empower students to own their futures. A global nonprofit founded in 1987, NFTE provides high-quality entrepreneurship education to middle school, high school, and postsecondary students.

NFTE brings the power of entrepreneurship to students, regardless of family income, community resources, special needs, gender identity, race, or ethnicity. NFTE has educated more than a million students, delivering our programs in school, out of school, in-person, online, or through hybrid models. To learn more, visit www.nfte.com.

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