

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

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FUEL a FUTURE

Annual Report Annual Report

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2023-24 has been a year of breakthroughs—when Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) has reached new heights of public awareness, catalyzed critical conversations around policy, garnered significant media attention, and achieved record-breaking fundraising milestones.

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5-11 THE NFTE EXPERIENCE

NFTE was founded in 1987 by the late Steve Mariotti. Under the leadership of current CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock, NFTE continues to use an entrepreneurial mindset model fueled by a highly trained teacher corps; experiential, projectbased learning; flexible, blended learning; a unique learning cycle; skills-based volunteer corps; lean startup tools and methods; and inspiring competitions and challenges.

12-14 GLOBAL & DOMESTIC IMPACT

15-17 CELEBRATING STUDENTS & ALUMNI

- Oct. 3, 2023 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge
- Nov. 16, 2023 World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge
- Feb. 28, 2024 Founders Forum
- May 1, 2024 NFTE Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards Gala
- May 10-June 18, 2024 Youth Entrepreneurship Challenges in NFTE's Capital, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, New England, South, Southeast and West regions.
- NFTE NEXUS POLICY BRIEFS
- FINANCIALS

20-23 THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

Mission

NFTE ignites the entrepreneurial mindset with unique learning experiences that empower students to own their futures.



Every person owns their future.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

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A YEAR OF **FUELING FUTURES**





As we reflect on the accomplishments of the 2023-24 program year, we are proud to share a remarkable story of growth, impact, and innovation at the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). This year has been one of breakthroughs—a year when NFTE has reached new heights of public awareness, catalyzed critical conversations around policy, garnered significant media attention, and achieved record-breaking fundraising milestones.

The past year has witnessed NFTE's work at the intersection of education, entrepreneurship, and equity resonate on a national and global scale. Our policy advocacy efforts gained momentum in FY24 with the launch of both our policy brief series and the efforts of our coalition of like-minded entrepreneurship education organizations, helping to elevate the importance of entrepreneurial education as a cornerstone of economic mobility and workforce development. These efforts have not only solidified NFTE's reputation as a leader in this space but also inspired policymakers to champion the transformative power of equipping young people with entrepreneurial skills.

At the same time, NFTE's mission has captured the attention of major media outlets like the Chicago Tribune, Education Dive, the Associated Press, Chalkbeat, and the Boston Globe, amplifying the voices of our students, educators, and alumni. Their stories of resilience, creativity, and determination have reached wider audiences, shining a spotlight on the profound impact of entrepreneurial thinking on individual lives and communities. This heightened visibility has been instrumental in expanding our network of partners and supporters who share our vision of a world where every young person has the opportunity to own their future.

In FY24, we also celebrated an extraordinary outpouring of generosity from our donors and partners, including a deeper and more meaningful partnership with American Student Assistance. Their support has enabled us to deepen our impact and scale our programs to reach even more aspiring entrepreneurs. This milestone underscores the trust and confidence that our supporters place in NFTE's mission and our ability to deliver significant, measurable outcomes.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and impact. We are excited to build on the momentum of FY24 and continue to create pathways for young people to develop the skills, confidence, and mindset they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.





OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEET OUR

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REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS

MID-ATLANTIC

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Drew Smith Founder & Principal HOPR Ventures

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Lisette Mendez Vice President & Latin America Controller AT&T Finance

SOUTHEAST

Richard Jackson Attorney at Law Greenspoon Marder, LLP

WEST

Leo Gestetner CEO Heath Capital



THE STORY BEGINS LEGACY

nfte

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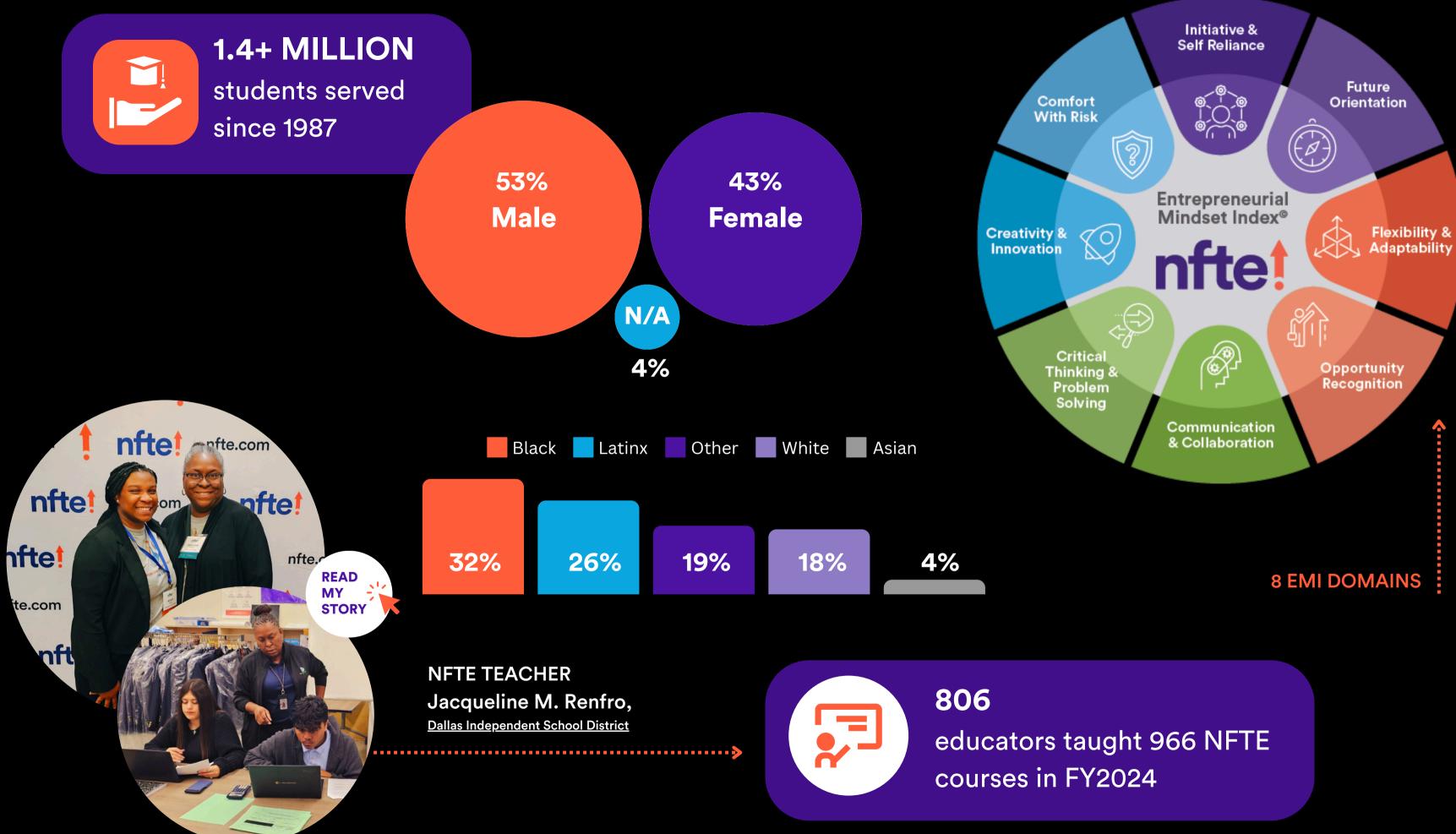
In the fall of 2024, Steve Mariotti-the visionary founder of the Network for **Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)** passed away peacefully on Oct. 20 at the age of 71. In his honor, NFTE established the Steve Mariotti Legacy Fund.

Mariotti believed that grit, tenacity, vision and an entrepreneurial mindset could not only inspire youth to own their futures but also elevate entire communities.

To date, NFTE has reached more than 1.4 million students globally. His pioneering spirit and commitment to entrepreneurship education will continue to inspire and guide NFTE as it moves forward.

Reflecting on the incredible legacy of Mariotti brings optimism for the future. His dedication and passion for empowering youth from low-income communities have laid a strong foundation for NFTE's continued success.

Looking ahead, under the leadership of CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock, NFTE remains steadfast in its expansion of youth entrepreneurship around the globe. With innovative programs and a dedicated team, the organization is poised to build on Mariotti's legacy and create even greater opportunities for the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders. His vision lives on in every student who dares to dream big and shape their own destiny.



73,430 students worldwide completed NFTE programs in FY2024.





READ MY STORY

nfte

of surveyed alumni said NFTE helped them with their businesses*

* NFTE Alumni Report (2021)



A cohort of 10 alumni participated in the 4th Annual NFTE Founders Forum

NFTE ALUMNUS, Class of 2000 Preet Sabharwal,

<u>Co-Founder and Managing Partner of SAB Capital</u> NFTE Mid-Atlantic Advisory Board & 2024 NFTE Entrepreneurial Leadership Award Honoree





21,422

hours of coaching, judging, and other volunteer services were given to NFTE





BECOME A VOLUNTEER **6,420** volunteers contributed 488 volunteer experiences, making an impact on 17,000+ NFTE students worldwide

> NFTE's virtual adviso session hosts a

NFTE's volunteers have served as virtual or in-person coaches, judges, advisors, guests for networking sessions, guest speakers, field trip hosts and participants, and Innovation Day volunteers Implement Relevant, Real-World Learning



Support Teacher Growth & Satisfaction



Build Future-Ready Skills

nfte!

Boost Student Engagement & Attainment

Connect School, Community & Industry

WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE NFTE







In the spring of 2024, each of the seven NFTE Regions selected an individual and corporate partner/volunteer of the year to honor during the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenges.

OF THE YEAR

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR





Southeast

me!



Brookline Bank

South







Nikki Tran-DellEva, BMO



Laura Kline, EY

Christiaan van Driel UBS



Steve Canaras EY

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REGIONAL CHALLENGE RECAP

REGIONAL CHAMPS FUEL THEIR FUTURES

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Each spring, NFTE students compete for seed capital in the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, the culminating event of NFTE's Entrepreneurship 1 and **Entrepreneurship Essentials** programs.



Here are the FY2024 regional Youth **Entrepreneurship Challenge winners:**

 NFTE CAPITAL - Atman Patel from Baltimore won with his business idea Story Crafters, which makes custom digital books about the customer, aiming to ignite a love of reading in all children. Program | Video

 NFTE MID-ATLANTIC - Rosalie Delgado from New Jersey won with her business idea IndependMe, an app that helps kids gain their independence via fun and interactive games. Program | Video

 NFTE MIDWEST - Ariana Whitaker from Chicago won with her business idea DigiPlan, a rewards-based app that integrates with students' learning management system platforms to personalize schedules and promote assignment completion. Program | Video

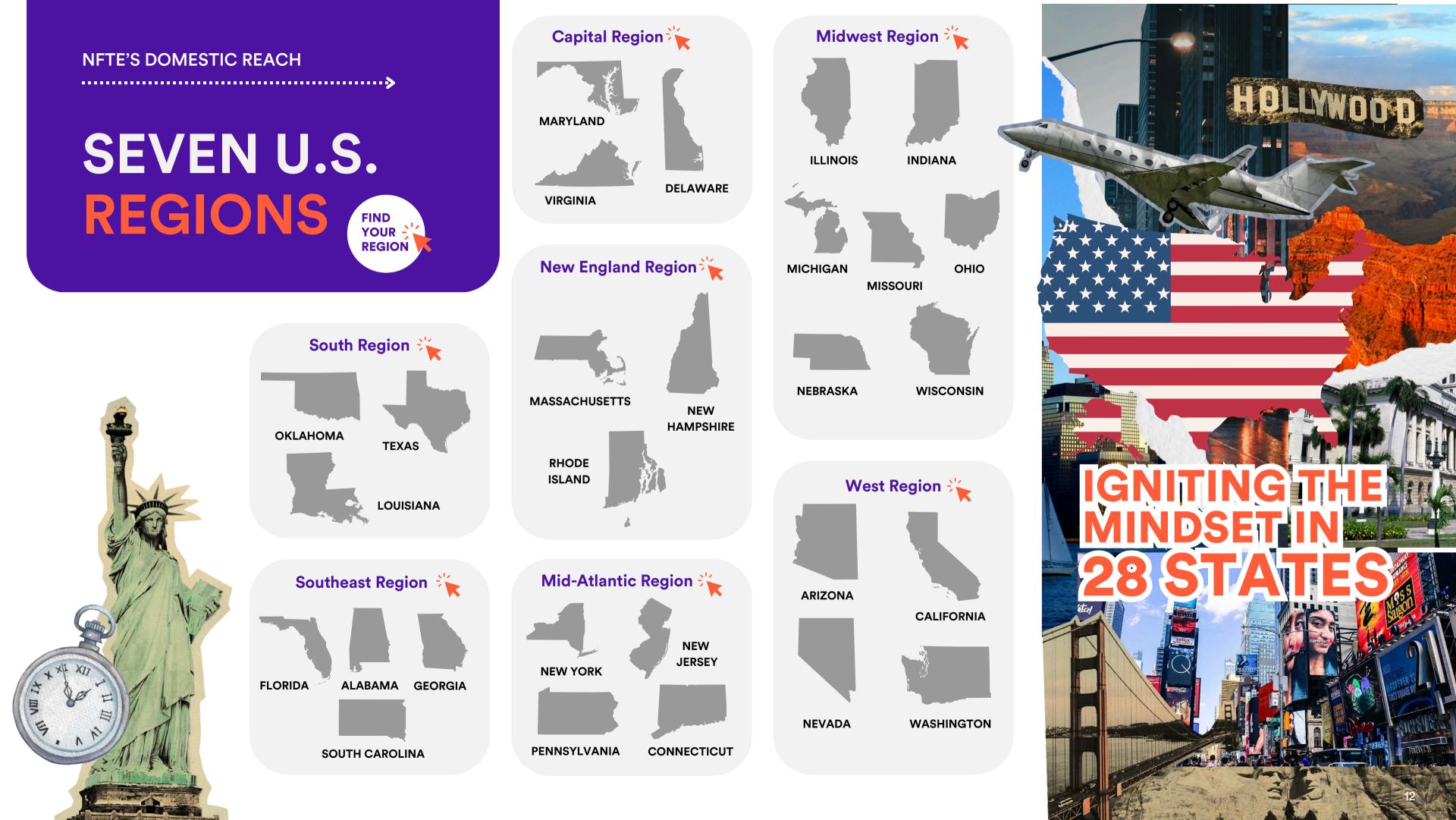
 NFTE NEW ENGLAND - Joahluis Molinar from Rhode Island won with his business idea That Junk Removal Company, which is a full-service junk removal company serving the Rhode Island community. Program | Video

• NFTE SOUTH - Lodias Martinet from Texas took first place with his business idea Style Selector, an app that generates outfits for those who don't know what to wear. Program | Video

 NFTE SOUTHEAST - Morgan Shepperd from Georgia won with her business idea MathYourWay, which provides personalized tutoring services to students. Program | Video

 NFTE WEST-NorCal - Dorothy Ho and Kimberlee Tran from San Francisco won with their business idea NutriShell, which produces organic, eggshell-based fertilizers packaged with a cute aesthetic. Program Video

 NFTE WEST-SoCal - Lucio Hightower-Rojas from Los Angeles won with his business idea Scholar Brilliance, a mission-driven technology company that aims to revolutionize how students fund and pursue their academic passions. Program | Video



NFTE'S INTERNATIONAL REACH

GLOBAL PARTNERS

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN 32 COUNTRIES



LAUNCHING THE NEXT GENERATION

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FUEL A FUTURE CAMPAIGN



In 2023, NFTE launched its Fuel a Future campaign to tell the story of young aspiring entrepreneurs. The initiative provided resources, captured video, and educated participants on the value of helping young innovators thrive in business. Every \$500 donation supported an additional NFTE student for a year, with contributions matched by American Student Assistance (ASA) to maximize impact.

The campaign highlighted personal stories from volunteers like Scott Snyder, Chief Digital Officer at EVERSANA and Vice Chair of NFTE's Mid-Atlantic Advisory Board, as well as alumni who stressed the importance of investing in the dreams and innovations of future leaders. It also encouraged community involvement through corporate partnerships, fundraising events, and volunteer opportunities to build a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among youth.

GLOBAL PARTNER PROFILE

Katerina Neroulia, the IBDP Theory of Knowledge Coordinator - MYP Entrepreneurship, says their NFTE program is transforming the way students learn and grow at Pinewood American International School of Thessaloniki, Greece. "This life-changing course offers students the opportunity to dive into the world of entrepreneurship, turning their creative ideas into tangible business ventures," she adds.

Through hands-on learning, Pinewood students master essential skills such as market research, financial planning, and crafting compelling business pitches. With the guidance of local mentors and a supportive school environment, students develop a deeper understanding of entrepreneurial principles and build the confidence to face real-world challenges.

Photos show young innovators from the Pinewood American International School of Thessaloniki, Greece, enjoying the NFTE experience-from their Greek Finals to the World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in New York. (Credit: Katerina Neroulia and Joe Curry Photography)

NFTE initiated a global celebration of Youth Entrepreneurship Day on Nov. 17, 2023, during National **Entrepreneurship Month. The** observance received recognition (pictured above) from U.S. **President Joe Biden and various** state and municipal proclamations.





"One of the program's highlights at Pinewood is the chance to participate in dynamic pitch competitions like WYEC, where students present their business ideas to panels of seasoned professionals," she explains. "This event provides a unique platform for students to receive

critical feedback, make valuable connections, and experience the thrill of bringing their ideas to life."



NATIONAL CHALLENGE RECAP

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A GLOBAL & NATIONAL CHAMPION

On Oct. 3, 2023, NFTE named Raneem Al Suwaidani the winner of the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, presented in New York by the Citi Foundation and Ernst & Young LLP (EY US), with support from PayPal and Santander. She received \$10,000 and a 45-minute mentorship session with Daymond John, founder and CEO of FUBU.

In November 2023, the 17-year-old also won NFTE's World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, securing a \$5,000 grand prize after competing against students from 11 countries. Al Suwaidani, a student at The Met School in Providence, Rhode Island, won with her business Lilypad, a food truck rental opportunity for BIPOC entrepreneurs to test culinary concepts in a low-cost, risk-free environment. She is the first person to simultaneously hold NFTE's national and world champion titles.



2023 NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge finalists included (I-r) runner-up Ashley Cruz Suarez (Re-Fit) from the Florence Nightingale Middle School in Los Angeles, runner-up Sarai Umansor Morales (Fiery) from Palm Beach Gardens Community High School, Florida, and national champion Raneem Al Suwaidani of The Met School in Rhode Island. The runners-up each received \$2,500 to grow their businesses or further their educational goals.

Also at NFTE's national competition, 18-year-old Rachel Solomon from Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts, won the Inclusive Innovator award with her business idea Quick Change, a subscription service for affordable walker replacement wheels. Solomon received a \$500 prize and shared her story in a fireside chat with NFTE CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock.



WORLD CHALLENGE RECAP

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WORLD • CHALLENGE

The reigning 2023 U.S. champion Raneem Al Suwaidani also won NFTE's second annual World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, which showcases the talent and creativity of young entrepreneurs from around the globe. Presented by Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) and Zuora, with support from PayPal and Santander, the Nov. 16 event brought together 23 students from 11 different countries to compete in the high-stakes business plan pitch competition at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.

Al Suwaidani received \$5,000 to further develop Lilypad, her idea for a food truck rental opportunity for BIPOC entrepreneurs. Three runners-up were also recognized. Sindhuja Venkataraman from ENpower in India was awarded \$1,000 for her business concept, MyRoots. Tadeo Noguera and Sebastián Rodriguez of Fundación Educación para el Futuro (FEF) in Argentina received \$500 for their idea, GreenBug. Misaki Nakamura of Career Link in Japan took home \$500 for her concept, Aladdin.



The 2022 NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge winner Josh Kreuger of St. Louis also competed in the 2023 global challenge. (Kreuger is pictured in the center.)

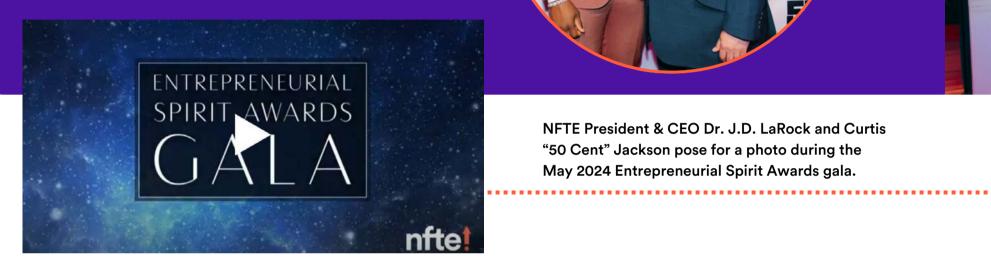
A student at South Technical High School in St. Louis, Kreuger took first place with his business MODRN Media, a digital marketing agency that trains and employs content creators while offering budget-friendly video production and social media management services to small businesses in the same community.

He was awarded \$10,000 plus a 45-minute mentorship session with Daymond John, The People's Shark and the founder, CEO and president of FUBU, a \$6 billion hip-hop apparel company.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AWARDS

NFTE & G-Unity Foundation Announce Collaboration at 2024 GALA



fte.con G G-UNITY FOUNDAT

NFTE President & CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson pose for a photo during the May 2024 Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards gala.

NFTE and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson's G-Unity Foundation announced their collaboration to support aspiring entrepreneurs at the NFTE Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards gala on May 1, 2024, in New York City. This partnership aims to empower young people with the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's competitive world.

"The G-Unity Foundation is well-aligned with NFTE in our efforts to foster inclusive and conscious capitalism by igniting the entrepreneurial mindset of youth in underserved communities," said NFTE President & CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock. "Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson's own story of determination will be sure to inspire our NFTE learners around the world."

As part of this collaboration, NFTE and the G-Unity Foundation will launch a joint BizCamp program that incorporates both NFTE course content and the G-Unity Business Lab program, providing an immersive experience into the world of entrepreneurship.

Jackson was honored with the NFTE Entrepreneurial Leadership Award at the gala for his remarkable success in the music industry and beyond. "This award embodies everything that both NFTE and I are about, empowering the next generation of young people to get out there, work hard, take risks and pursue their dreams with steady determination," Jackson said.

Also receiving the Entrepreneurial Leadership Award were the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Preet Sabharwal, NFTE alumnus and Co-Founder/Managing Partner of SAB Capital. Additionally, Michael J. Kacsmar, Chair of the NFTE Board of Directors, received the NFTE Legacy Award.



FOUNDERS FORUM

NFTE's Founders Forum Pitch Competition was presented by the Citi Foundation, Ernst & Young LLP (EY US), PayPal, and SAP, with additional support from Intuit.

On Feb. 28, 2024, founders of three innovative businesses showcased their best pitches, competing for a share of a \$10,000 capital investment pool. Zachary Borja, founder of Borja+ Media, secured the top prize of \$5,000 for his digital marketing company. Jonathan Ho earned \$3,000 for his business, Edily Learning, while Akin Shoyoye received \$2,000 for his venture, Faderade.

2024 WINNER ZACHARY BORJA

WATCH THE PITCH

USING OUR VOICE FOR GOOD

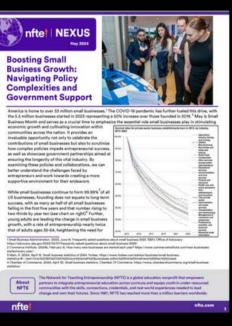
NFTE NEXUS

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Policy Briefs Launched During National Entrepreneurship Week

During the February 2024 National Entrepreneurship Week, our nonprofit announced the launch of NFTE Nexus Policy Briefs, a new series dedicated to exploring critical topics in education.







The Crucial Role of Entrepreneurship in Youth Skill-Building for Career Readiness

Preparing young people for their futures is an increasingly urgent concern-in a 2022 report, UNICEF and PwC projected that an alarming 60% of the world's 1.8 billion young people will lack the essential skills required for the workforce.¹ As the skills gap continues to widen, policies must play a more active role in fostering the development of the next generation of workers. For high schoolers, work-based learning opportunities, both in and out-of-school, are a necessary part of the equation



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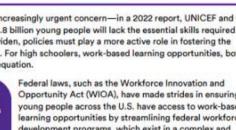
The bipartisan WIOA eauthorization bill include overage of programs

Opportunity Act (WIOA), have made strides in ensuring that young people across the U.S. have access to work-based earning opportunities by streamlining federal workforce development programs, which exist in a complex and convoluted system. High school work-based learning opportunities and youth workforce investment activities covered in the original WIOA law include programs like pprenticeships, leadership development activities, adult mentoring, internships, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skills training

As Congress seeks now to reauthorize WIOA and the workforce undergoes continual changes, it is imperative to modernize WIOA to address challenges related to equity, access, and the dynamic nature of the workforce. The House version of the bipartisan WIOA reauthorization bill, H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA), expands on the initiatives covered by WIOA by including activities that develop critical skills like creativity, digital literacy, critical thinking, collaboration, and persistence. Research shows that these skills are among the top skills employers seek, and proposed laws like the WIOA reauthorization bill are starting to highlight these skills as a necessary part of the future workforce. Entrepreneurship programs, like those offered by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), develop these essential skills, creating a direct connection between what research recommends and what policy should support. Given the profound influenc that entrepreneurship programs wield in fostering skills development and paving the way for future success,

1 PwC & UNICEF. (2022). The net zero generation: Why the world needs to upskill young people to enable the net zero transition.https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/issues/upskilling/the-net-zero-generation-unicef-generation-unlimited.pdf (accessed on 1/09/24)

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is a global education nonprofit that empower About partners to integrate entrepreneurial education across curricula and equips youth in under-resourced NFTE mmunities with the skills, connections, credentials, and real-world experiences needed to lead change and own their futures. Since 1987, NFTE has reached more than a million learners worldwid









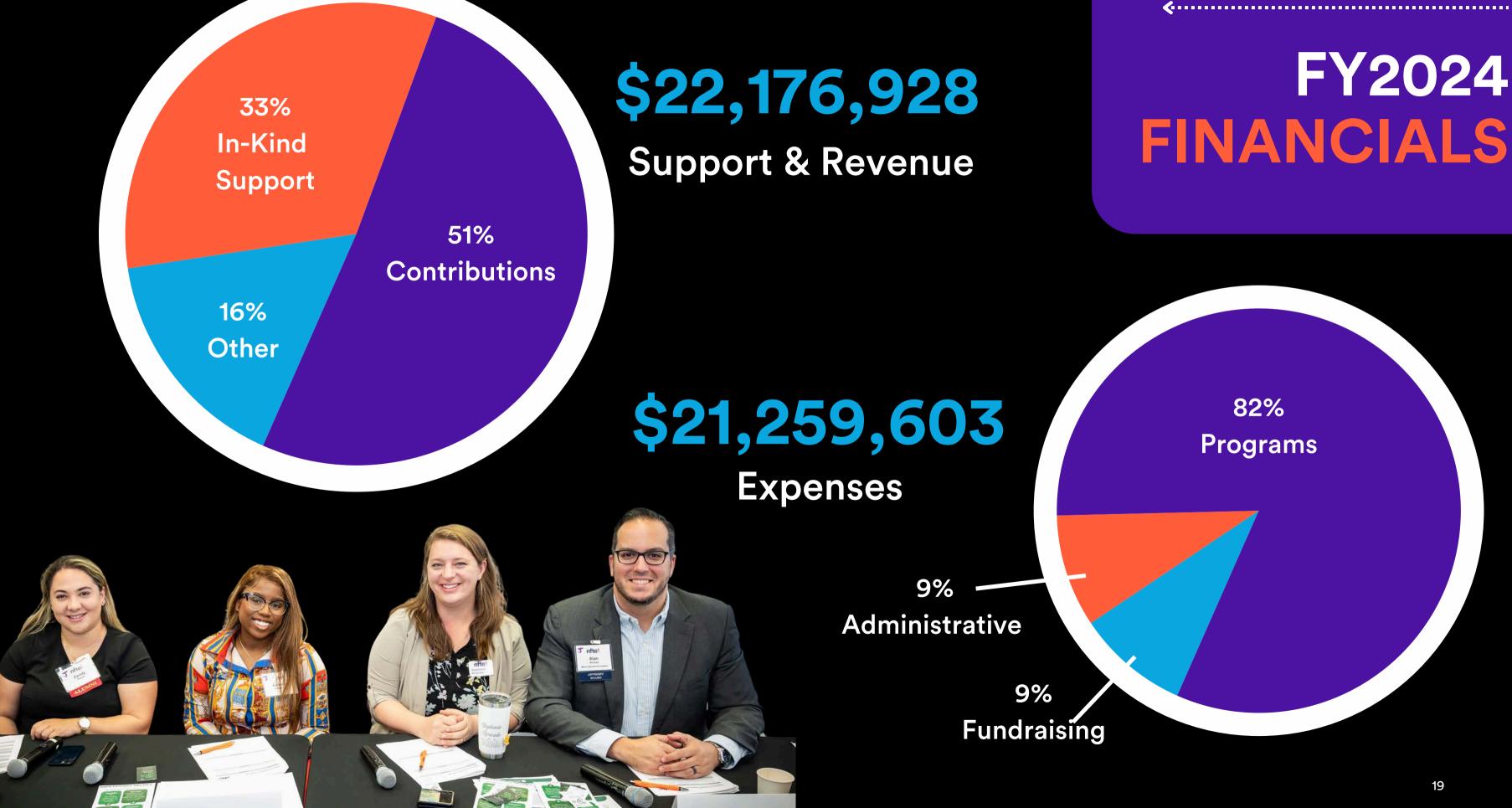






The new NFTE Nexus briefs offer clear, comprehensive, and impartial insights, designed to bring readers up to speed on complex issues. The inaugural policy brief, "Empowering the Future Workforce: The Crucial Role of Entrepreneurship in Youth Skill-Building for Career Readiness," explores the connection between entrepreneurship education and preparing today's youth for successful careers. Other topics addressed in FY24 were:

- "Entrepreneurship Education in Middle Grades: The Case for Starting Early," June 2024
- "Boosting Small Business Growth: Navigating Policy Complexities and Government Support," May 2024
- "Unlocking Financial Success: The Role of **Entrepreneurship Education in K-12 Financial** Literacy," April 2024
- "The Intersection of Policy and Generative AI in Transforming K-12 Education," March 2024



REVENUE & EXPENSES

FY2024 FINANCIALS



NFTE IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!

Entrepreneurial Leaders \$1M+











Global Students

76%

of NFTE's students qualify for free and reduced-price school meals

Equity Investors \$500K+

Citi Foundation





Seedlings Foundation **N**

THANK

VENTURE CAPITALISTS | \$250K+

Egidio Lombardi Charitable Lead Trust General Motors MetLife Foundation Multinational Scholars Charitable Trust 1907 PayPal Tucker & Susan York

LAUNCH PARTNERS | \$100K+

The Alper Family Foundation, Inc. Aramco Comerica Bank Community Foundation of Broward Farmers Insurance Fulton Bank The Jim Moran Foundation Link Logistics Anthony D. Salcito

ANGEL INVESTORS | \$50K+

The Batchelor Foundation The Beth and Ravenel Curry Foundation BMO Burton D. Morgan Foundation CME Group **E*TRADE** from Morgan Stanley EverBank F. M. Kirby Foundation **G-Unity Foundation** Motorola Solutions Foundation NISA Charitable Fund SAP America, Inc. Shopify U.S. Bank The Wallace and Baum Family Foundation Windsong Trust

STARTUP INVESTORS | \$25K+

Anonymous The Achelis and Bodman Foundation Dwight Stuart Youth Fund Tony & Christine Frazier The Fred Maytag Family Foundation Howard & Stephanie Krass Liberty Mutual Foundation MGM Resorts International Polk Bros. Foundation Ruben Resendez Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation Ross Stores, Inc. Saigh Foundation University of North Texas at Dallas Youthbridge Community Foundation

ACCELERATORS | \$10K+

The Annie E. Casey Foundation **Blavatnik Family Foundation** Chris Boyd **Capital Group CBT** Technology Institute Maxine Clark Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley Ron Consiglio Fairfield County Community Foundation, Inc. Leo & Natalie Gestetner Pamela & Mark Habner Gus & Mary Beth Harris Hasbro Inc. **Holloway Family Foundation** Ingredion **Chuck Jacobson** James Avery Artisan Jewelry The Johnny Carson Foundation

ACCELERATORS | \$10K+ (CONTINUED)

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GROWTH PARTNERS | \$5K+

Mark Andrade Patrick Auger Benjamin Bowling Wills Charitable Foundation Brookline Bank Byline Bank Steve Canaras Cathay Bank CFGI



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GROWTH PARTNERS \$5K+ (CONTINUED)

Clearlake Capital Dade County Federal Credit Union Data Systems Analysts, Inc. Datasite Steve Davis Tracy Dillon **DLA Piper Eastern Bank Foundation** Eddie C. & C. Sylvia Brown Family Foundation **Rob Fraser** Gerson Lehrman Group Patrick Goode **Grant Cardone Foundation** Huntington Bank **Richard Jackson** Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. Stewart A. Merkin Merrill Lynch Miami Bayside Foundation Miami Downtown Development Authority Brett Miller Chris Moore NFP **Oaktree Capital** O'Melveny **Piñon Foundation Prosperity Bank** Royal Caribbean Group **Russell Foundation** SAB Capital Preet Sabharwal **Drew Smith** Scott A. Snyder State Fair of Texas

The Rosemary Haggar Vaughan Family Foundation Valley National Bank Gary VonderHaar James Walsh David Wellisch West Monroe Partners **Ridgway White** The William J. McKeehan Foundation

NEXTGEN CHAMPIONS | \$1K+

Matthew Aaron Paul Albarian Alliance Bernstein L.P. James Ashton **Bank of America Bellwether Asset Management** Blank Rome LLP Matthew Brown **Buck Buckley** Tom Buckley **Hilary Burtenshaw** Noelle Calautti Anthony Calderazzi Cape Cod 5 Foundation Mike Carpenter CBIZ, Inc. CBRE Cody Chang **Charles Schwab Foundation** Peter Chieco Chubb Xavier Corzo Jasmin Coyne Ann Daley **Dart Group II Foundation** David and Patricia Porter Fund



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NEXTGEN CHAMPIONS | \$1K+ (CONTINUED)

Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation Michael Dominguez Jason Espenshade Evensky & Katz Kyle Garman Jonathan Gestetner Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP Andrew Gilbert Matthew X. Gilmore **Boris Gutin** Harry & Zoe Poole Foundation **HBK Engineering** Gregory T. Hoogkamp Lindsay Huber Monika Hudson Insperity Judy Jandera **Alexis Jeffries** Xhulio Jubaj Meghan Kacsmar Kevin Kay Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP KPMG, LLP Sunny Ku Latham & Watkins LLP Donna Stewart Lewis Stash R. Lisowski Lois & Philip Macht Family Philanthropic Fund Aleksandr Lyubimov Massumi & Consoli **Cary Matthews** Fritz Maytag Lisette Mendez **Toppan Merrill**

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