nfte! Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship | BUILD

FUEL OUR SHARED FUTURE



PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISER TOOLKIT

Fuel a Future is our annual peer-to-peer campaign that raises awareness and funds to help young people discover their potential through entrepreneurship education. This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 4th annual Youth Entrepreneurship Day on Nov. 19, 2026, bringing together the NFTE and BUILD communities around a shared vision for the future.

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

1

Kickoff: November

Create your fundraising page at **nfte.com/startafundraiser** or support.build.org/fuelourfuture. Use the instructions on the next pages or reach out to alisons@nfte.com for support.

2

Nov. 19 – Youth Entrepreneurship Day

First and biggest giving opportunity. Share your page and ask for support.

3

Dec. 1 – Giving Tuesday

Send additional asks and reminders.

4

Send thank-you notes

Follow up with every donor after the campaign closes.

SETTING UP YOUR NFTE FUNDRAISING PAGE

Step 1:

Go to nfte.com/startafundraiser, scroll down to "Build a Personal Donation Page" and click the link that says "Register as a Participant."

Step 2:

Feel free to add a goal and make an initial gift to the campaign. If you have not donated to NFTE before, you will need to make a gift of at least $5 to begin your campaign. Click "Next Step."

Step 3:

If this is the first time you have set up a NFTE fundraiser, you will need to click "Join as a New Participant" and follow the prompts to create an account. If you have created a fundraiser before, you can sign into your existing account using your password or click "email me my login information."

Step 4:

Customize your page within your participation center by clicking on "set up your personal page." The page is already set up with template content, but this is your chance to really personalize and share the story of your connection to NFTE. Customize the image by scrolling down and clicking on "update media."



SETTING UP YOUR BUILD FUNDRAISING PAGE

Step 1:

Go to support.build.org/fuelourfuture, and click the button “Become a Fundraiser”, then choose the option to “Join a Team” and select the BUILD region you are affiliated with.

Step 2:

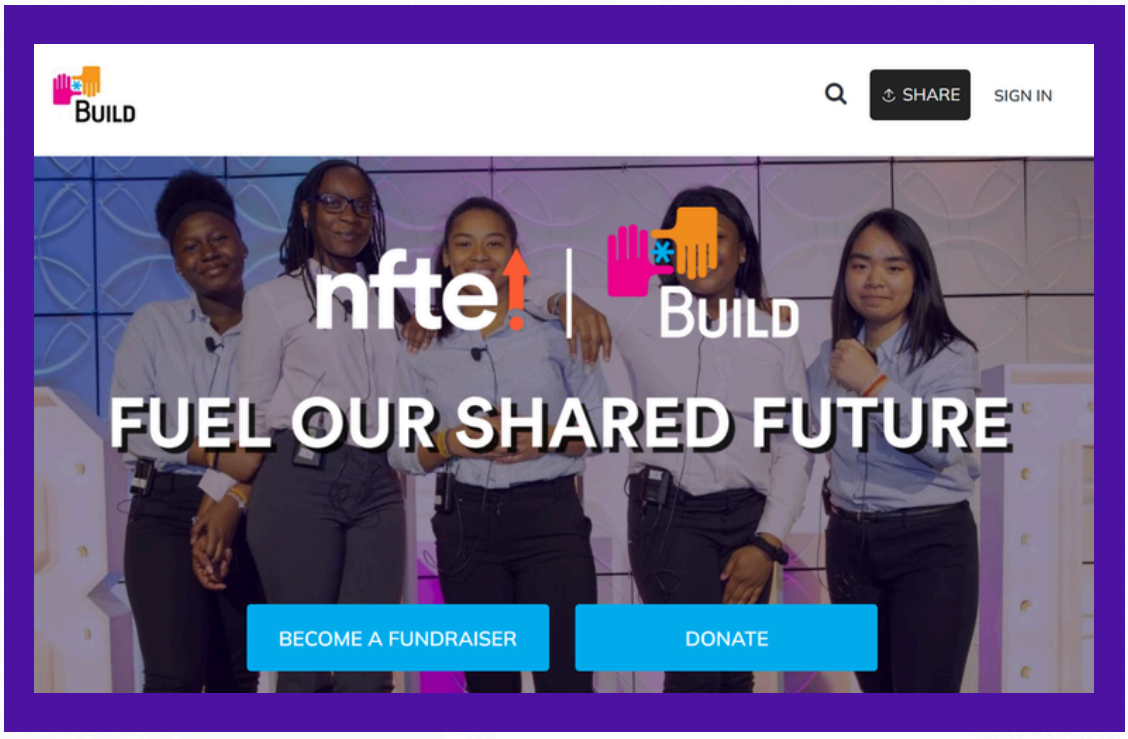
If this is the first time you have setup a BUILD fundraiser, you will need to follow the prompts to create an account. If you have created a fundraiser before, you can sign into your existing account using your password or the magic link option.

Step 3:

To create your fundraising page, enter a goal amount and select the region you would like to raise funds for. If you’d like a personalized short URL for your page you can create that now. Click “Next.” In the next pop-up, customize your pfofile picture by clicking “change” and uploading your favorite photo.

Step 4:

Customize your page within your participation center by clicking on “manage” button in the header. The page is already set up with template content, but this is your chance to really personalize and share the story of your connection to BUILD.



CAMPAIGN GRAPHICS

Download campaign graphics

Use these ready-to-use graphics and templates to share your fundraiser with your network.







OTHER EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

Not running a peer-to-peer campaign but want to share in the excitement of the campaign? Take a look at our commercial and our proclamations recognizing Youth Entrepreneurship Day and share them with your networks.



SAMPLE SOCIAL POSTS

Use these sample posts below, incorporate a student story, or write your own post sharing your NFTE/BUILD story. Tag @NFTE and @BUILD in your post!

Youth Entrepreneurship Day

A single opportunity can change the trajectory of a young person's life. Today, on #YouthEntrepreneurshipDay, I'm celebrating the power of entrepreneurship education to help young people discover their potential, find their voice, and create their own path forward. Through the combined strength of NFTE and BUILD, more young people will have access to the entrepreneurial skills, networks, and support they need to thrive. This Youth Entrepreneurship Day, I'm supporting that vision. If you believe every young person deserves the opportunity to succeed, please make a donation and help Fuel a Future. [donation link]

Giving Tuesday

A huge thank-you to everyone who has already supported young people by helping to Fuel the shared future of @NFTE and @BUILD. Today is #GivingTuesday, and I'm making an additional push to raise funds to expand opportunities for the next generation of entrepreneurs and changemakers. Every gift helps more young people gain the confidence, skills, and connections they need to succeed. Will you join us before the day ends? [donation link]

Final Year-End Push

There's still time to make a difference in 2026! As we approach Dec. 31, I hope you'll join me in supporting NFTE and BUILD and the incredible young people they serve. Every gift helps more young people build confidence, develop an entrepreneurial mindset, and gain the skills to turn their ideas into possibilities. Help us finish the year strong and fuel even more futures in the year ahead. Donate by Dec. 31:

[donation link]

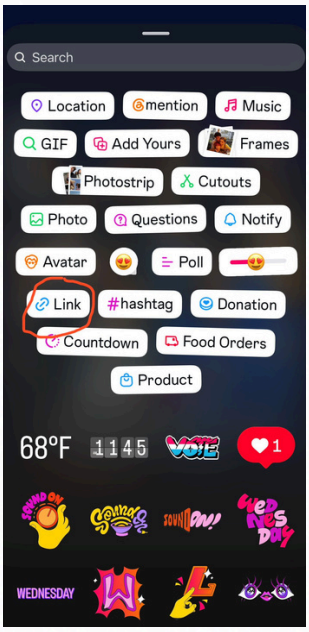




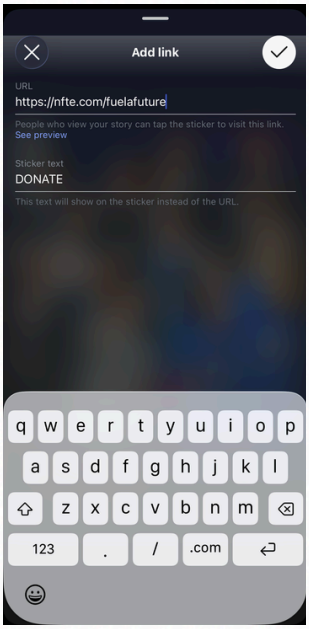
Bonus: How to Post Your Donation Link in Instagram Stories



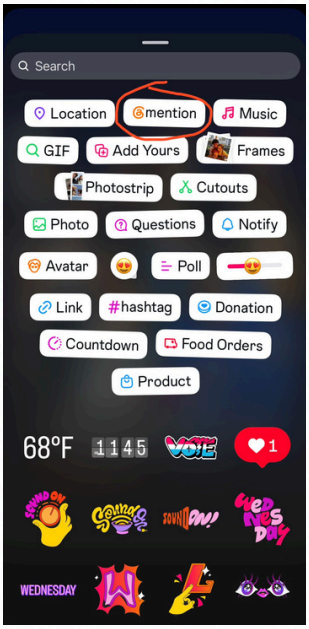
Step 1: Add a photo to Instagram story and click on sticker options (circled in orange)



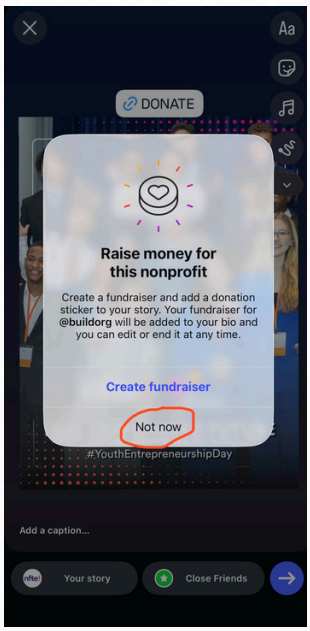
Step 2: Click on LINK (circled in orange).



Step 3: Add your personal fundraising link. For our example, we customized the link to say DONATE.



Step 4: Add a "mention" sticker to tag NFTE & BUILD in the story.



Step 5: Type @buildorg and select BUILD's account. Click "Not now" on the popup. Type @nfte and select NFTE's account. Click "Not now" on the popup.



Step 6: Add a caption like our example and post!

TIP: If you tap on the stickers, you can change their font and color. Keep tapping until you find one you like!

SAMPLE TEXT MESSAGES



Youth Entrepreneurship Day

[Greeting of your choice]
Today is Youth Entrepreneurship Day, a day to celebrate young entrepreneurs and invest in the next generation of innovators and leaders. I'm raising funds for NFTE (the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) and BUILD.org, two organizations that empower young people through entrepreneurship education, hands-on business experiences, and mentorship. As they come together, they're building a shared future with the potential to reach even more young people with the skills and opportunities to thrive. Will you join me in fueling their shared future with a donation today? Donate here: [donation link] Every gift helps young people turn their ideas into opportunity!

Giving Tuesday

[Greeting of your choice]
Today is Giving Tuesday, and time is running out to make a difference! Following Youth Entrepreneurship Day, there's one more opportunity to fuel our shared future by supporting NFTE and BUILD as they unite to bring entrepreneurship education, hands-on business experiences, and mentorship to more young people. Your gift today can help equip the next generation with the skills and confidence to turn their ideas into opportunity. Will you make a donation before the day ends? Donate now: [donation link]

Final Reminder

Hi [name]! As the year comes to a close, I wanted to ask if you'd consider making a year-end gift to support NFTE and BUILD. Your donation helps create opportunities for young people to build the skills, confidence, and entrepreneurial mindset to shape their futures. There's still time to give before Dec. 31: [donation link] Thank you!

Thank You

Thank you for fueling the future! Your support helps make it possible for more young people to build the skills, confidence, and entrepreneurial mindset to shape their own futures.

Want to stay involved? Sign up for updates or volunteer with us to continue making an impact at volunteer.nfte.com or build.volunteerlocal.com

SAMPLE EMAILS

Youth Entrepreneurship Day

Today is Youth Entrepreneurship Day, a day to celebrate young entrepreneurs and invest in the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders. [PERSONALIZE: I'm proud to be a [BOARD MEMBER / VOLUNTEER / STAFF MEMBER / SUPPORTER] of [NFTE / BUILD], where I've seen the power of entrepreneurship education to help young people recognize their potential and imagine new possibilities for their futures.

NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) and BUILD empower young people through hands-on entrepreneurship education, business-building experiences, and mentorship. Students develop the skills, confidence, and entrepreneurial mindset to turn their ideas into action and shape their own futures. Now, NFTE and BUILD are coming together to build on shared strengths, expand their reach, and equip even more young people with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

Will you join me in fueling their shared future with a donation today? Your gift helps invest in young people as they develop the creativity, resilience, and practical skills to navigate an ever-changing world. Donate today: [donation link] Thank you for helping fuel the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders!

Giving Tuesday

Today is Giving Tuesday—and there's still time to make a difference. PERSONALIZE: As a [BOARD MEMBER / VOLUNTEER / STAFF MEMBER / SUPPORTER] of [NFTE / BUILD], I believe in the power of entrepreneurship education to help young people build skills, confidence, and opportunities for their futures.] Following Youth Entrepreneurship Day, this is another opportunity to invest in the young people at the heart of NFTE and BUILD's work.

Both organizations empower young people through entrepreneurship education, hands-on business experiences, and mentorship. As NFTE and BUILD unite, they're working toward a shared future where more young people can access the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to turn their ideas into reality.

Before Giving Tuesday ends, will you make a gift to help fuel this next chapter? Your donation helps young people learn to solve problems, take initiative, build businesses, and see new possibilities for themselves. Every contribution helps advance a future where more young people have the opportunity to build their own paths to success. Donate now: [donation link]

Year-end Ask

As the year comes to a close, I'm reaching out with one final ask: Will you join me in making a gift to support NFTE and BUILD?

This is an exciting moment for these two communities as they come together to expand opportunities for young people through entrepreneurship education. Your gift can help more young people develop the confidence, skills, and entrepreneurial mindset they need to turn their ideas into action and shape their own futures.

There's still time to make your year-end gift before Dec. 31: [donation link]

Thank you for considering a gift and for helping us finish the year strong. I'm excited about what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your generous donation. I'm grateful that you chose to support a mission that means so much to me.

Your gift helps create opportunities for young people to build confidence, develop an entrepreneurial mindset, and gain the skills and experiences they need to shape their own futures. As NFTE and BUILD come together, your support is helping us reach even more young people and build on the strengths of both communities.

Want to stay involved? Sign up for updates or volunteer with us to continue making an impact at volunteer.nfte.com or build.volunteerlocal.com



FUNDRAISING EVENT TOOLKIT



Amplify your fundraising goals by throwing a house party.

Ideas

- Cocktail party with snacks & drinks
- Sit-down dinner party
- Weekend brunch party
- House concert
- Backyard BBQ
- Dessert party
- Cooking class
- Potluck

Sample Agenda

#01

7:00 PM
Welcome

7:00 - 7:45 PM
Mingle

7:45 - 7:55 PM
Gather - Usher your guests into the space for the presentation.

7:55 - 8:15 PM
Present

8:15 - 8:25 PM
Ask and Answer - Make the ask and answer any questions from your guests. This is when your friends get to support the cause you are so passionate about. Thank your guests, share your story and passion, and teach about NFTE/BUILD. Thank your guests again, encourage them to stay for more drinks and dessert, and ensure they have any information they need about how to get involved. Allow guests to mingle, grab a drink and a bite, and catch up with each other or make new friends.

8:25 - 9:00 PM
Sendoff

#02

4:30 PM:
Caterers Arrive

6:30 PM:
Guests Arrive

6:30-7:00 PM:
Arrivals, Wine, Food

7:00-7:10 PM:
Welcome and NFTE Video

7:10-7:30 PM:
Wine Presentation and Personal Entrepreneurship Connection

7:30-7:45 PM:
Networking

7:45-8:00 PM:
NFTE Overview

8:00-8:15 PM:
Teacher Intro/Student Presentation

8:15-8:25 PM:
Q&A

8:25-8:30 PM:
Ask and Announce Match and Thank Yous

8:30-9:00 PM:
Breakdown

Preparation Checklist

4 WEEKS OUT

1. Send invitations.
2. Finalize plans with vendors.

3 WEEKS OUT

1. Create a list of all necessary items: food, drinks, napkins, silverware, tablecloths, etc.
2. Coordinate with your local NFTE or BUILD contact on any available literature or giveaway items (postcards, pins, stickers, sign-up sheet, donation forms, etc.)
3. Prepare your presentation.
   a. Your story and overview of NFTE

2 WEEKS OUT

1. Finalize your catering order.
2. Purchase beverages and supplies.
3. Read over your presentation and practice. It will make you feel more comfortable.
4. Follow up with anyone who hasn't responded.

1 WEEK OUT

1. Email, call, or text all guests to ensure they have directions and let them know how excited you are to see them.
2. Purchase food and supplies.
3. Receive any available literature from your local NFTE or BUILD contact.

DAY/NIGHT-OF

1. Pick up your catering.
2. Setup your space
3. Set up a small table for all the materials from NFTE/BUILD. You may even want to have a laptop on your donation page to provide another option for guests to give.
4. Put out the sign-up sheet with a pen.
5. Take donations at the event. It will take the frustration away of chasing down pledges! Bring donation forms and take Credit Card numbers there.
6. Relax and have fun!

IMMEDIATELY AFTER

1. Pat yourself on the back - great job! We are so thankful to you!
2. Write down any helpful notes from your conversation with your guests, so you can reference them later in discussions with thank-you cards or follow up with the sources or contacts.
3. Thank all the guests as soon as possible in writing.

Sample Invitation

Join me for [wine and light bites / treats and refreshments] as we celebrate Youth Entrepreneurship Day and support a cause close to my heart: empowering young people to shape their own futures through entrepreneurship education.

You'll learn more about the work of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) and BUILD, two organizations that help young people develop entrepreneurial mindsets, build real-world business skills, and turn their ideas into opportunities. Now they are coming together to expand their collective impact and help even more young people access the skills and connections they need to thrive.

I'm also excited to share how I am using my resources to help the youth in our community. We'll share some wine and light snacks and raise funds for this vital cause. Looking forward to seeing you there! If you're unable to attend, you can still support us by donating at [donation link]

NOTE: Personal Invitations are best, so even if you send out a mass email, it's always a nice touch to follow up with a text, phone call, personal email, handwritten note, or in-person invite. Be sure there's an option to RSVP to give you an idea of how many people will attend. Remember that the house party is a fundraiser, so your guests know what to expect.

Sample Presentation



A vital part to your house party is showcasing why you are passionate about NFTE/BUILD and why your guests and your community should join in supporting the organization. Incorporating a speech from a student or alum is optimal, but if not, NFTE & BUILD have many videos that could be used including:

About NFTE - What Does an Entrepreneur Look Like?
More Than an Entrepreneur - with Steve Mariotti
The BUILD Journey - From Student to CEO

How to Make An Ask

When seeking contributions, using language such as "support" or "partner" rather than "donate" can create a feeling of collaboration and boost donations. Furthermore, highlighting the simplicity of the donation process with words like "easy," "simple," "smooth," or "hassle-free" can also be effective. When soliciting donations at a charity event, it's important to make the ask as personal as possible. This can be achieved by:

- Sharing a story that highlights the positive impact
- Focusing on the donor and making them the hero of the story.
- Sharing tangible results of past donations.

You can start asking for donations long before the event takes place. You can use social media, email, or phone calls to ask for pledges.

NFTE ALUMNI STORIES

Use these templates to share how NFTE and BUILD help young people discover their potential and build toward their future.

Melissa Rodriguez
Mid-Atlantic Region
NFTE Class of 2008

Melissa Rodriguez turned her lifelong love of baseball into a thriving business, Reino Sports Agency, which helps international baseball players succeed on and off the field. Through NFTE's alumni network, mentorship, and business-planning support, Melissa built the foundation to launch her company and turn her entrepreneurial vision into reality.

Brian Sessions
Capital Region
NFTE Class of 2008

When Brian Sessions found NFTE as a Baltimore high school student in 2008, he was at a turning point. He says NFTE helped steer him away from a path that could have led to jail and showed him what was possible. Today, he's paying that opportunity forward through 5 Saves Lives, his West Baltimore community organization addressing five pillars of basic needs, including education, nutrition, health care, protection, and financial well-being.

Amari DeFrance
South Region
NFTE Class of 2017

When Amari DeFrance was 14, NFTE helped her discover confidence and potential she didn't know she had. Today, she uses her marketing and digital media expertise to empower high school students to tell their own stories, while building her photography business on the side. Through NFTE's mentorship and alumni network, Amari learned to think bigger, embrace her purpose, and turn possibility into action.

Sasha De Leon Giron
New England Region
NFTE Class of 2023

Sasha De Leon Giron discovered through NFTE that entrepreneurship can be a tool for solving problems and helping others. As a student at Keefe Tech, she took that mindset beyond the classroom, founding Sonrisas De Leon to help expand access to oral care in Guatemala. Her story is a powerful example of young people turning purpose into action.

Cameron Marshall
Southeast Region
NFTE Class of 2025

At just 18, Cameron Marshall is already turning financial literacy into opportunity for other young people. A NFTE alumnus from Riverside High School in Jacksonville, Cameron founded Street Cents, published a book at 16, and has since expanded his idea into workshops and educational programming for young people. This year, he'll bring his story to EY's Strategic Growth Forum, sharing the stage with leading entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Joshua Mallory
Midwest Region
NFTE Class of 2025

For Joshua Mallory, entrepreneurship is personal. A NFTE student at Chicago Hope Academy, Joshua lives with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) and knows firsthand how difficult it can be to find clothing that is both accessible and stylish. He turned that challenge into Easy Fit, a venture creating dress shirts with magnetic closures for people with mobility challenges. The idea earned Joshua first place at NFTE's 2025 Midwest Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge and shows how young people can turn their own experiences into solutions that improve life for others.

Solonia Allen
West Region
NFTE Class of 2024

Solonia Allen discovered a love for baking at age seven. Years later, when her mother asked her to make a vegan lemon cake, that passion became the seed for ALMNDMLK, her all-vegan cake business. Through NFTE, the Los Angeles entrepreneur took her idea from the home kitchen to farmers markets and the national stage, earning runner-up at NFTE's 2024 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Since then, she has sold more than 1,000 cakes while continuing to grow her vision for the business.



BUILD ALUMNI STORIES

Raymond Walker
New York City Region
BUILD Class of 2025

When Raymond Walker joined BUILD, he developed MTP, a tech-forward phone case company. Today, he's transformed that entrepreneurial spark into GenBlock, an air purification technology venture. Raymond credits BUILD with helping him step confidently into the tech world, strengthen his grit and self-management, and build relationships with people who continue to root for his success. That's the power of giving young people the skills and support to take their ideas further.

Elizabeth Ramirez
California Region
BUILD Class of 2026

Elizabeth Ramirez and her BUILD team created RebBudget, an app that teaches financial literacy and gives users practical tools, including access to their own financial data and giving circles. For Elizabeth, the experience changed the direction of her life. "BUILD is literally the reason why I am going to college," they say. "When my teacher told me we were going to learn something new and do something bigger than you, it pushed me to be more curious about things. It challenged me to put myself out there, work more with people, and understand I can do things beyond myself."

Francilliana Barbosa
Boston Region
BUILD Class of 2020

Francilliana, a first-generation college student, graduated from Providence College with a degree in Health Policy and Management and a minor in Black Studies. She now works as a Patient Care Technician in Oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she brings compassion, diligence, and a commitment to transforming care for underrepresented communities. She has stayed involved with BUILD as a Youth Fellow and alumni mentor, and she credits the program with encouraging her to explore new paths and take on leadership. Her advice to the next generation: "Just go for it! Follow your heart and trust your instincts. Take that leap because you have people who believe in you, support you, and genuinely want to see you succeed."

BUILD ALUMNI STORIES

Madesen Lynch
Metro DC Region
BUILD Class of 2025

From BUILD student entrepreneur to college scholar, Madesen Lynch continues to turn her potential into purpose! As a member of BUILD's Class of 2025, Madesen captured first place at Metro DC's BUILDFest with her innovative business, Candlelit Creations. Her entrepreneurial journey continued as she became a proud recipient of BUILD's 2026 Suzanne McKechnie Klahr, Esq. Scholarship.Now a freshman at Virginia Tech, Madesen credits much of her success to the lessons, experiences, and opportunities she gained through BUILD. She continues to lean on her SPARK Skills to navigate new challenges, embrace opportunities, and push herself toward greatness.

Aaliyah Taylor
Pittsburgh Region
BUILD Class of 2022

Aaliyah and her team were named the 2022 BUILDFest SWPA Champions with their idea for S&A Fidget Writing workshop, which helped teens with anxiety by creating their own fidgets and engaging in reflective writing to process their emotions and deal with stress. "Participating in BUILD profoundly impacted my life by boosting my confidence, sharpening my communication skills, and showing me the power of turning ideas into real world solutions," says Aaliyah. "It also connected me with mentors and like-minded peers, expanding my network and opening doors to new opportunities I hadn't imagined."



MERGER MESSAGING



350,000+
young people served collectively each year

Pending regulatory approval, BUILD will become the first organization in NFTE's family of brands.

WHY WE'RE COMING TOGETHER

The world young people are entering is changing rapidly. AI and other emerging technologies are transforming how people learn and work. At the same time, entrepreneurship education remains fragmented, limiting its reach, consistency and long-term influence.

NFTE and BUILD share a belief that young people, particularly those in under-resourced communities, should have the skills, confidence and agency to shape their own futures. Together, we can build on decades of experience in experiential, project-based learning and prepare more students with the creativity, adaptability, collaboration and problem-solving skills they need to thrive.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH

- **Expand access and deepen impact** — Reach more young people with high-quality entrepreneurship education and real-world learning experiences.
- **Build stronger pathways for students** — Bring together complementary programs, relationships and expertise.
- **Strengthen the field** — Help move entrepreneurship education from an optional program to a more central role in preparing young people for their futures.
- **Create a sustainable platform for growth** — Build an infrastructure, partnerships and organizational capacity to support innovation and long-term impact.

THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

This merger is about more than combining two organizations. It is an opportunity to create something larger than either could achieve alone: a family of mission-aligned brands that can accelerate innovation, deepen impact and help shape the future of entrepreneurship education.

ONE SHARED VISION

A future in which every young person has the entrepreneurial mindset, skills and opportunities to become the CEO of their own life.