



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

What's Ahead, the Next Wave

With the trophies awarded, SharkMakers is already gearing up for fall.

We are thrilled to join forces with **AMGEN** and **USF** for the **AMGEN STEM Entrepreneurship Camp**, taking place at **USF** from **July 13 to 16**. We will be engaging with **175 exceptional high school students**, demonstrating the SharkMakers approach to innovation and turning ideas into reality. Our goal is to inspire them to become the next SharkMakers. [ψ](#)

Expanding Our Reach

This fall, we are broadening our focus to encompass two key areas:

- **High School Cohort:** We aim to deepen our regional impact by teaching students to think like CEOs, focusing on deep problem-solving and instilling accessibility and inclusive design as the foundation of their innovations.
- **Collegiate Launch:** We are finalizing our cornerstone partnership with the USF Muma College of Business Nault Center for Entrepreneurship to introduce the inaugural SharkMakers Collegiate Competition.

Our Mission:

Whether in high school or university, we strive to bridge the skills gap, propelling students to become the **"CEOs of their lives."**

Season 12 planning is in progress. Stay tuned for updates!



To prospective participants, mentors, and sponsors: *what are you waiting for?* The next generation of innovators is eager, and there's a place for you in this movement.

[Join our waitlist for the upcoming season!](#)

Alumni Making Waves



Nia Balieva - 2019-20 3rd Place and 2020-21 1st Place - **UF Finance senior**, now a **Private Banking Intern** at **Bank of America**.



Cassandra Bernard - 2019-20 Award of Distinction, Mentor & Board Member - **USF marketing graduate** and **founder of Casico Creative**, now helping businesses grow through **branding** and **creative strategy**.



Zacharie Cobbs - 2023-24 Bold Innovator, 2024-25 3rd Place - **Hillsborough College Business Admin sophomore**, now a **Legal Intern** and **co-founder of CivicForward FL**.



Akshita Kumar - 2022-23 1st Place - **Indiana University Finance junior**, now a **Business Development Intern** at **AEJ Consulting**.



Nitya Padmanabhan - 2022-23 1st Place - **University of Maryland Computer Science junior**, now a **Backend Software Engineering Intern** at **PayPal**.



Marcin Plaza - 2021-22 1st Place and 2022-23 2nd Place - **UF Computer Science and Engineering** now a **hardware engineer** at **Midjourney**.



Matthew Werneken - 2018-19 1st Place **Harvard Astronomy PhD student**, completed undergraduate and graduate studies at **Columbia University**, now leading a team that secured a **\$300K NASA grant for the LIONESS CubeSat**.

By instilling young innovators with **strong critical thinking skills, a focus on accessibility, and an entrepreneurial mindset** during their formative years, these remarkable alumni are not only preparing for the future, they are actively shaping it. **Today, they serve as a compelling testament** to the impact of intentional investment in the next generation of leaders!!!

Become a part of SharkMakers!



By investing in SharkMakers, you are giving students real-world business experience, igniting their creativity, and empowering them to turn bold ideas into action. Together, we are shaping the changemakers of tomorrow.

