



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUR IDEA STARTS HERE

SharkMakers Goes Collegiate - Registration Is OPEN!



We're making a bold move and taking SharkMakers Next Gen to the college level! This fall, SharkMakers Next Gen launches its inaugural collegiate cohort in **partnership with the USF Nault Center for Entrepreneurship**. **College students across the Tampa Bay region are invited** to turn an innovative product idea into a real-world venture through hands-on workshops, industry mentorship and an exciting final pitch competition.

Participants will validate a problem, understand their customers, develop and refine a product, build a business model, create a go-to-market strategy and learn to pitch with confidence. No prior entrepreneurial experience is required just an idea, curiosity and the commitment to build.

This is more than a competition. **It's where bold thinkers become creators, ideas become possibilities** and students learn what it means to be the CEO of their lives.

SharkMakers NextGen Collegiate Program Schedule:

September 23 – Application Deadline
October 2 – Kickoff @ USF
October 8 – Workshop 1 @ USF
October 16 – Workshop 2 @ USF
October 21 – Workshop 3 @ JP Morgan
October 30 – @ USF
November 20 – @ USF
December 8 – Final Pitches & Awards Ceremony @ Accenture



@sharkmakersnextgen

For event updates, student founder spotlights, and workshop reminders follow SharkMakers NextGen on IG



BUILD WHAT'S NEXT

Applications are open. **Deadline to Apply September 23rd**. Register your team and join us at kick off on Oct 2nd!



SharkMakers is Growing!

We are Excited to welcome out new board members!



Michael Hall - Ecosystem Builder & Entrepreneur; Senior Managing Partner at MediumFour and Co-Founder of HyLo Innovation. 20+ years across marketing, technology, data, and innovation.



Emily Adams - Operations & Innovation Leader; COO and Managing Partner at Gulf Works Lab. 15 years across manufacturing, technology, leadership development, and operations.

Thank you to our sponsors for believing in what's possible. Your support gives SharkMakers students the tools, guidance, and real-world experience to turn bold ideas into action.

Welcoming a New Partner



Thank you to the Dobkin Intuitive Foundation for contributing to the awards for our SharkMakers competition. Your generous support helps us recognize and celebrate students' bold ideas.

Continuing Partners



We are equally proud to continue our partnership with Adobe and The Florida High Tech Corridor. Their ongoing commitment provides our students with world-class tools, industry access, and invaluable innovation opportunities across the region.

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.



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What's Ahead, the Next Wave

A New High School Season Is on the Horizon! 🦈

For more than a decade, the SharkMakers High School Program has brought students together to challenge themselves, collaborate with industry mentors and discover what they are capable of achieving.

This season, we are looking for students who are ready to step outside their comfort zones, work as part of a team and follow through on the commitment they make to themselves and one another. They do not need to arrive with all the skills. They simply need to be: **Motivated. Coachable. Committed.**



SharkMakers gives high school students the opportunity to work in teams, learn directly from industry mentors, and transform an innovative idea into a real product. They build confidence, leadership, and real-world problem-solving skills.

The Student Journey



A 5 month after school program, kicking off in December 12, with Final Pitches and Awards taking place in April.



Students and families can get an **early look at the season through our fall information sessions and community events, including a Financial Literacy Community Event hosted by JPMorgan Chase.** Sign up to receive pre-season event invitations, application information and important program

MEET THE INTERNS Ψ



Tapfuma Mayida- 2025-26 1st place **SharkMakers winner** with Pathable. **3rd Place SSEF** winner. **Junior** at Palm Harbor High IB. Interested in **Medicine/Biotechnology**



Ritchel Mesidor- 2025-26 1st place **SharkMakers winner** with Pathable. **Head Programmer** of **FTC Worlds Robotics Team.** **Junior** at Palm Harbor University IB. Interested in **Computer Science.**



Jiya Patel- 2025-26 1st place **SharkMakers winner.** **Head Notebook** of **FTC Worlds Robotics Team.** **Junior** at Palm Harbor University IB. Interested in **Medicine.**



Aarush Shah- 2025-26 1st place **SharkMakers winner.** **Future Business Leaders of America Nationals Qualifier.** **Junior** at Eastlake High School. Interested in **Engineering.**



Yashika Garg - 2025-26 2nd place **SharkMakers winner** with Rhova. **SSEF 2nd Place Winner.** **Junior** at Middleton High. Interested in **Biotechnology/ Engineering.**



Sarayu Karedla - 2025-26 2nd place **SharkMakers winner.** **SSEF 2nd Place Winner.** **Junior** at Middleton High. Interested in **Biotechnology**



Sampurna - 2025-26 2nd-place **SharkMakers winner.** Proficient in **Java Coding.** **Junior** at Strawberry Crest. Interested in **Architectural Engineering**

To prospective participants and mentors:
What are you waiting for?



HS Student Info



Mentor Registration

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY SPOTLIGHTS

