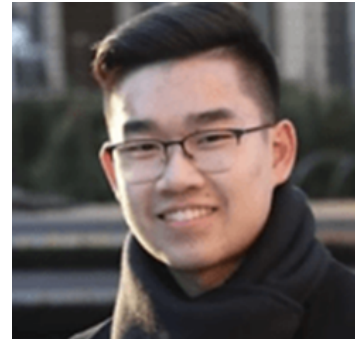

HENRY HE

My name is Henry He and I am currently a senior mechanical engineering major at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with plans to pursue a Quantitative Finance masters degree. Throughout my educational career, I have experienced both finance and STEM related projects/opportunities. I always aim to broaden my perspectives and views and take on new and stimulating experiences. Some of these experiences range from being an accounting intern at a steam engine company, Mr.Steam and being a human resources intern for the Department of Education in New York City, to learning and practicing engineering/STEM skills through design projects and presentations and developing my passions for leadership and entrepreneurship through NFTE. I strive to be a better version of myself every single day and embrace the challenges that come up in an effort to find the right career path and future for me. I was born and raised in Queens, NY, where I continue to search for new knowledge.



ELA GOKCIGDEM

Ela Gokcigdem is a student at Babson College studying Business and Environmental Sustainability. After witnessing the environmental and economic collapse of her hometown in Turkey, she found a way to use business as a platform to advocate for sustainability. Originally from Arlington, Virginia, she is the founder of ePearl Technologies and won runner-up at the NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2019. From there she channeled her profits into her non-profit "MyEcoEdu" which provides high schoolers with a baseline environmental curriculum. Ela serves in leadership positions the environmental organizations EarthEcho International and This Is Zero Hour. In the summer of 2021, she has spent 3 weeks in her hometown of Avsa, Turkey, developing a research report regarding various environmental issues facing the island. She plans on showcasing her findings on a global scale and throughout the process thanks NFTE for giving her the confidence and resources to pursue her passions. She is very excited to help other students find their love for entrepreneurship just like she did!



JORDAN FERGUSON

Jordan Ferguson is a freshman at Syracuse University where he is majoring in Accounting, as an honors student. He hails from South Florida, often referred to as a melting pot of many cultures. Jordan likewise is a melting pot of many different interests ranging from computer science to speech and debate. In his earlier years, he was content with the status quo until he was put in a situation where he had to challenge himself for the better. It was from that point on Jordan learned to become self-motivated. His interest and ambition has lead him to acquire business certifications, win innovation competitions, and have unique experiences. Jordan will hone in on these skills and knowledge to give back to his NFTE community.



LAYSA MOURAO

Laysa Mourao is a rising Senior at Framingham High School in Massachusetts. She has always been very interested in entrepreneurship and finances, which led her to taking the E1 course. After finishing as a finalist in the National Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2020, she has maintained close involvement with NFTE. She serves as Framingham's Youth Internship Coordinator, and will use her experience to pursue a partnership between NFTE and other organizations with the goal of providing youth with education opportunities to explore careers in entrepreneurship. After her parents immigrated to the United States from Brazil, she was born in Framingham, where she still lives with her family.



LIZBETH MARTINEZ

I am a fourth-year at California State University, Long Beach, pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a minor in Event Planning Management. I currently serve as the President of the American Marketing Association Long Beach, a student-led marketing organization on campus. I am a first-generation student and a proud daughter of immigrants. I grew up in Downey, California up until college. I moved to Long Beach, California, and spend my summers in Mexico with my family, where they now live. I am also a NFTE Alumni and took my first course in high school. Having completed the class, I participated in the Start-Up Summer Summit in 2015. I launched my own small business, Earthy Jewelry Co., during the summit and was awarded NFTE Global Entrepreneur of the Year 2016. An aspiration of mine is to help and guide first-generation students as they transition from high school to college and professional development. NFTE helped me find my career pathway and lead me towards academic success through continuous support and resources. I've strived to help incoming first-generation students by sharing my story and experiences throughout my college career. I plan to continue these efforts after college and hopefully build a community of mentors for first-generation students.



SAMYA ZIA

My name is Samya Zia, I'm a 19-year-old college student studying Economics at Florida International University. Additionally, I'm CEO of Money Moves the video game which is a video game that educates the youth on financial literacy, and CEO of Zia Kidz Learning where we teach 3rd-12th graders how to code apps, video games, and websites. I was born in London, England, and moved to the United States when I was 15 years old. I was extremely shy and couldn't even speak in front of the classroom when I first moved, but now I'm a CEO and speak in front of hundreds of people at a time. This all happened because my NFTE teacher, Mr. Ray Parris pushed me to reach the full potential that was already within me. Since then I've won multiple NFTE biz camps, placed 1st place at Start-Up Summer and won \$5000, and placed 1st place in NFTE's National Investor and won \$9000. A quote I live by is "The biggest obstacle you'll ever have to overcome is your mind. If you can overcome that, you can overcome anything." Attaining a growth mindset is probably one of my biggest accomplishments thus far as it motivates me to overcome any obstacle on my entrepreneurial journey. I currently live in Miramar, FL with my two amazing roommates as we navigate this journey of adulthood, entrepreneurship, and life together.



IMANI GONNIGAN

"Hello my name is Imani Gonnigan. I graduated from Holy Trinity High School and I will be attending Illinois College in the fall. Throughout my time in high school, I was able to be a junior counselor for Brush Creek Ranch, receive two scholarships to pay for my high school tuition, and also managed to do another NFTE internship last year in the peak of covid. I have also received a scholarship to go to college which I am very excited about. I hope that this experience teaches me a lot. A goal I have is to learn as much as possible and become as well-rounded as I possibly can be. I was born in South Holland but raised in Chicago and now I am in the midst of moving again. And finally, I live with my mom, dad brother, and sister."



ASHLEY PINEDA-SALGADO

"Hi, my name is Ashley Pineda-Salgado and I am a rising sophomore at St. John's University where I double major in Marketing and Sports Management. I currently work at the St. John's University's athletics department and intern as a social media content creator for a sports media company. I started with NFTE my freshman year of high school and continued through their programs all throughout my senior year. My family is originally from Mexico City but I was born and raised in Queens, New York where I live now with both of my parents."



JORDYN JACKSON

My name is Jordyn Jackson and I come from a family of Entrepreneurs and Businessmen/women. I had the opportunity of participating in NFTE BizCamp at the Los Angeles Urban League in 2011 at the age of 11. I was selected as First Place winner in my classroom and Second Place winner of the middle school regional competition. My young age prohibited me from advancing, but I was invited to be the Master of Ceremonies for the high school regional competition. I also had the pleasure of being honored in New York as NFTE's Global Young Entrepreneur of The Year for Los Angeles in 2013. Since BizCamp, NFTE allowed me to further pursue Jewelry Made Fabulous with participation in NFTE Startup Summer and NFTE Made in LA in 2014. Since my start of high school in 2014, I have transitioned out of the jewelry industry and into social media marketing. I will be beginning my new journey and 4th year of college in Atlanta, Georgia at Georgia State University majoring in Marketing, August 2021. I look forward to learning more about business and marketing so I can efficiently help small businesses create and establish a social media presence. I am also excited to reconnect with NFTE and sharpen my entrepreneurial skills in hopes to create a Program Office in Atlanta for underrepresented youth.



GAYATHRI SAMUEL

My name is Gayathri Samuel and I'm a first-gen sophomore studying Business Law and Marketing at the University of Miami. After obtaining my Bachelor's, I aspire to become a Business Lawyer with a special focus on small businesses. This focus was heavily inspired by my family's Orchid shop, JJ Orchids, founded in 2008 in the Heart of Miami, and has contributed over 12 years of experience to both my academic and business personas!

