



Student Action Summit 2021 Panels!

PANEL #1: Environment & Sustainability

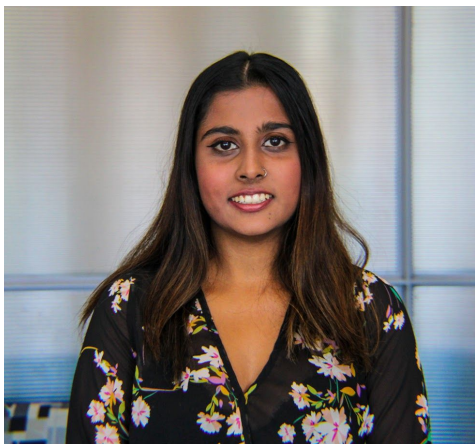


Darren Hau is a Senior Associate Product Manager at Schmidt Futures, with a focus on EV-related product development and climate infrastructure financing.

Prior to Schmidt Futures, Darren worked on Tesla's Global Charging Infrastructure team, where he analyzed customer usage of the Supercharger network to inform V3 Supercharger design and optimized battery storage at charging stations, cumulatively reducing global

Supercharger expenses by tens of million of dollars. He also co-founded Dragonfly Systems, a solar power electronics company. After an acquisition by SunPower, he continued to lead hardware design, manufacturing, and over 300 kW in pilot site deployments. Darren is the inventor of multiple U.S. patents in solar electronics, and has been recognized by a Forbes 30 Under 30 Award.

Darren also serves as a technical advisor for BMNT's Hacking for Defense program, which connects high-caliber student teams with DoD-sponsored challenges. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University.



Mashaba Rashid is a 23 year old, currently residing in San Francisco and working in biotech as a biomedical engineer. She was introduced to LearnServe in 2012 where she created Eco-School Leadership Initiative (ESLI), a student led outdoor education program designed to teach elementary school students about environmental sustainability. Her goal was to introduce students to topics like climate change, pollution and recycling at a young age so that they could start to make sustainable habits early on. Her work with ESLI did not end at



LearnServe, she continued to expand the program to various parts of Northern Virginia as well as to universities throughout Virginia. She created meaningful partnerships with organizations like the National Wildlife Federation who hosted ESLI's annual conference. After she graduated from college, ESLI became a part of the National Park Services and continues to reach students from all parts of the county.



Neil Suri is a current senior at Oakton High School in Northern Virginia. His background is at the intersection of technology and the natural world and includes research at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in using satellites to detect outbreaks of cholera in the wake of natural disasters in developing nations such as Haiti, Yemen, and Mozambique. His most recent work, FireWatch, is a device that uses machine learning to automatically detect forest fires and alert first responders. A network of the award-winning devices is installed in Appalachia and is actively monitoring 500,000 acres of

forested land with several fires detected in the region. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities including rock climbing, skiing, and mountain biking.

PANEL #2: STEM



Cindy Gao is an advocate for equality in economic opportunity and access. By day, she works at LinkedIn in strategy & operations, helping the company realize its vision for creating economic opportunity for everyone. After work, she teaches professional development to first generation college students at San Jose State University through Braven.

Cindy graduated from Georgetown University in 2016 with a degree in economics. At Georgetown, she served on the National Council for Social Impact 360, a non-profit organization that teaches skills in social entrepreneurship to college students. During



non-COVID times, Cindy loves to travel, attend concerts, and try new restaurants.



Enzo Obeso founded Ventir, a company that makes modular backpacks with attachable and detachable compartments that adapt to a person's daily needs. The idea for Ventir came from a personal pain point as Enzo carried 2-3 bags while commuting around New York City from classes to internships and finally to Central Park to run with friends. After searching online and failing to find a backpack that would expand and contract based on his daily needs, Enzo founded the company and worked on developing the modular backpack. Ventir closed its first Kickstarter campaign last year and is working to deliver pre-orders to

customers in March.



Heidi Waite is currently a 3rd year PhD student at the University of California Irvine in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department. She studies how marine invertebrates in the California intertidal are coping with increased temperatures due to climate change. Outside of research, she is passionate about science communication, fostering diversity in STEM, and environmental conservation.

If you want to learn more about Heidi's work, visit her website: www.heidiwaite.com



PANEL #3: Human Rights



Christopher Cole is a senior at Temple University, majoring in Media Studies and Production with a concentration in Media Business and Entrepreneurship and Minor in Africology. Raised in D.C., he is passionate about the inclusion of African-American history in the educational system. While attending School Without Walls high school, Chris attended the Committee on Education Roundtable held at D.C.'s City Hall to voice the need for African-American history to be incorporated as a core course in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) system.

In his senior year of high school and while he was in LearnServe's Incubator program, Chris founded the BlackEd Perspective, a media company that aims to create content that is inclusive and representative of black culture and history. At the same time, Chris was preparing to go to Zambia for the second time with LearnServe, this time as an intern.

In college, Chris has continued working on the BlackEd Perspective through school projects and media projects. Chris began working with WHIP Radio, a student-run radio station at Temple University where he and other hosts worked on three news shows per week discussing news pertaining to Temple, the Philadelphia area, and national news. Chris currently works with PhillyCAM, a community media center committed to teaching, creating, and distributing locally-produced media content on cable television, FM radio, and online. Starting this month, Chris will be producing and editing a variety of on-air shows on PhillyCAM's radio station as well as creating his own show, the Black Perspective, to give entertaining and educational advice to listeners regarding topics in African American studies. Feel free to connect with Chris on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Soundcloud](#)!



Myles Silsby is a 12th grade student at Maret School in Washington, DC. He was part of the LearnServe Fellows program last year where he developed a venture focused on increasing the inclusion of LGBTQ+ topics in schools and enabling teachers to better support their LGBTQ+ students. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, Myles has adapted his venture to create the *Stonewall Writes*. The *Stonewall Writes* is a monthly online publication, with elements like LGBTQ+ book and movie recommendations and

information about local charities to donate to, intended to promote conversations surrounding the LGBTQ+ community in everyday life. When he isn't in school or working on the *Stonewall Writes*, Myles enjoys baking and playing with his dog.



Peniel Ouabo is a senior at National Cathedral School who desires to live life to the fullest and die empty. She always knew she wanted to help others while making money and LearnServe showed her that she could do both. Growing up, she noticed widespread ignorance surrounding her home country of Cameroon and the continent as a whole. With the help of LearnServe Incubator, she developed New Lenses on Africa, an online resource aiming to challenge the narrative surrounding Africa. The website currently has blogs, videos, and links to informational resources to enable the visitor to get a complex understanding of Africa. She hopes to study Africana and entrepreneurship in the college and create an organization dedicated to development work on the continent.