Welcome

Blackstone LaunchPad is pleased to announce the fourth cohort of the Blackstone LaunchPad Fellowship, our immersive 8-week program designed to support student entrepreneurs.

Run in partnership with Future Founders, the 2021 Summer Blackstone LaunchPad Fellowship will empower 55 student startups with entrepreneurial resources, mentorship, education, and financial assistance.

Student participants will benefit from a community of fellow student entrepreneurs who will motivate them to explore and build on their ideas as well as further develop their skills as founders.

We invite you to take a first look at these remarkable students and their startups, and join us in supporting their journey to solve today and tomorrow’s most challenging problems.

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Student Participants

Aabix | Industrial, Energy & Environment

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Aabix is a smart home device technology company that solves the equity gap in home data by providing access to the IoT for historically underserved populations.

Inspiration: Jeremy was inspired to start Aabix after seeing first hand the amount of damage frozen, bursting, and leaking pipes can do to a property.

Agcess | Agriculture & Food Supply

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Agcess is an agriculture company that solves the technology gap between corporate and local farms by delivering precision agriculture metrics via SMS to small farmers.

Inspiration: Somil was inspired to start Agcess after watching his family, small farmers in an emerging market, have their needs be overlooked, neglected, and dismissed.

Amtrix | AI

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Amtrix is a software company that solves search and complex information retrieval challenges for SME and Enterprise customers through AI-powered virtual assistants.

Inspiration: Jordan was inspired to start Amtrix after asking himself "If I was to solve the biggest and most painful problem I could think of using the knowledge, experience and expertise I have accumulated in my 23 years of living on this planet, what would it be?"

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Student Participants

Bilingue | Education

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Bilingue is an edtech application designed to prevent generational communication gaps with digitally interactive language lessons for children ages 0-10.

**Inspiration:** Emely was inspired to start Bilingue after feeling a social responsibility as a first generation Latina to keep the Spanish language present within subsequent generations.

Bins Storage, Inc. | Transportation

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Bins Storage, Inc. is a platform-as-a-service company that creates efficiencies via a software that itemizes inventory and manages deliveries for tenants, movers, and storage facilities.

**Inspiration:** Albert was inspired to start Bins Storage, Inc. after speaking with his co-founder’s uncle, who operates two storage facilities and was looking to develop a new multi-story facility.

BioSignature Solutions | Healthcare

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** BioSignature Solutions is a specialized CRO that helps those struggling with mental illness find the treatments that work best for them through customized biomarker panels.

**Inspiration:** Anastasia was inspired to start BioSignature Solutions after noticing a persistent gap between academic and industry approaches to solving diseases and issues within psychiatry.

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LaunchPad Fellowship: Summer 2021

Student Participants

BOSQ | Healthcare

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: BOSQ is a healthcare company that solves the concerns of nursing mothers by redesigning the traditional breast pump into a more personalized experience.

Inspiration: Mirka was inspired to start BOSQ after working with a new father who wanted to create a breast pump for his wife that closely mimicked the nursing motion of a baby.

Card Stock-Exchange | Finance / FinTech / Blockchain

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Card Stock-Exchange is a fintech platform that gives the trading card industry an online stock market for trading cards.

Inspiration: Zachary was inspired to start Card Stock-Exchange after nurturing an extensive network of high-end traders and business owners within this industry while growing his own rate-of-return on card investments.

CarpeMed | Healthcare

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: CarpeMed is a healthcare company that solves the challenge of finding quality doctors when traveling through its mobile app.

Inspiration: Olaseni was inspired to start CarpeMed after his wife was bitten by a mosquito in Tanzania and the couple scrambled to find medical care across two countries and five doctors.

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Student Participants

Coastal Reefsilience | Cleantech / Sustainability

Student's LinkedIn

Company: Coastal Reefsilience is a sustainability organization that aims to safeguard coastal communities through its reef restoration activities.

Inspiration: Austen was inspired to start Coastal Reefsilience after working on projects with the Coral Restoration Foundation and The Nature Conservancy Virgin Islands Program.

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Connectyfi | Business Services

Student's LinkedIn

Company: Connectyfi is a service that solves the problem of college students landing internships and jobs through its opportunity matchmaking.

Inspiration: Naiju was inspired to start Connectyfi after it took 52 applications and 8 months of rejections to land his first part-time job.

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Creatition | Education

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Creatition is an educational marketplace where instructors offer specialized single lectures and exclusive videos at affordable prices.

Inspiration: Majid was inspired to start Creatition after his experience enrolling in multiple online courses for expanding his research knowledge during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Student Participants

Cultiveit, Inc. | Business Services

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Cultiveit is a B2B PeopleOps tech platform that helps employees prevent burnout by connecting them to high quality time off experiences.

Inspiration: Yannell was inspired to start Cultiveit, Inc. after her and her co-founders viscerally experienced burnout during their early careers.

Yannell Selman

Diglot | Education

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Diglot is an educational company that makes language learning more fun by taking classic novels and weaving foreign words into the English sentences.

Inspiration: Evan was inspired to start Diglot after trying and failing to learn Portuguese for over two years.

Evan McGloughlin

Elysian | Sales & Marketing

Student's LinkedIn

Company: Elysian is a service that helps solve the friction of arranging services for loved ones who have recently passed through their end-of-life marketplace.

Inspiration: Vincent was inspired to start Elysian after experiencing the tragic loss of his partner Shane Colombo, who was taken by city-group gun violence in 2018.

Vincent Perez

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Et al, Inc. | Business Services

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Et al, Inc. is a digital platform that helps reduce the challenges faced by women and gender diverse creatives through their curated resources and community.

**Inspiration:** London was inspired to start Et al, Inc. after learning that while women make up 53% of creative freelancers globally, they earn 32% less than men do for the same work.

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EthosSphere | Fashion & Beauty

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** EthosSphere is an inclusive beauty supply store that aims to be the intersection of science, beauty, and community for all curls, coils and coifs.

**Inspiration:** Rumbidzai was inspired to start EthosSphere after first-hand struggles trying to shop for beauty products that didn't involve traveling long distances or dealing with uncomfortable verbiage and imagery online.

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FeelGood! | Food & Beverage

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** FeelGood! is a food company that provides unique, higher nutrient products derived directly from Montana-grown berries.

**Inspiration:** Sumedha was inspired to start FeelGood! after being asked to carry out the research on supporting the value-added market and product development of cold-hardy berries by Western Montana growers.

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Fleek | Fashion & Beauty

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Fleek is a shopping startup that solves the problem of cluttered mobile shopping by finding and recommending the latest fashions across many top brands, all in one app.

Inspiration: Cyprien was inspired to start Fleek after observing that the digital shopping experience, whether on mobile or laptop, is overwhelming.

Fonz Music | Media & Entertainment

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Fonz Music is an app that allows guests to make song requests to a host's Spotify, just like a jukebox, making it easier for people to connect in person using music as a gateway.

Inspiration: Diarmuid was inspired to start Fonz Music after partnering up with several other students whose internships were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Access Sustainability Team (FAST) Blackfeet | Agriculture & Food Supply

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: FAST Blackfeet is a non-profit that supports local community members with tools and resources to start their own for-profit tea businesses.

Inspiration: Danielle was inspired to start (FAST) Blackfeet after discovering that the food pantry they were working with was struggling to source locally grown herbal teas.

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Student Participants

Forgot or Knot | Retail, Commerce & Shopping

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Forgot or Knot is a service that helps small businesses build stronger relationships with prospects through their custom gift deliveries.

Inspiration: Jason was inspired to start Forgot or Knot after struggling with his own forgetfulness when it came to getting gifts and remembering all 11 of his brothers and sisters’ birthdays.

Geek Girl Careers | Education

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Geek Girl Careers is a platform that empowers high school students to discover their dream careers in tech through their personality assessment, skill development tools, and a career exploration program.

Inspiration: Sandhya was inspired to start Geek Girl Careers after struggling to figure out how to turn her diverse interests into a college major, and eventually, a career.

GEM | Industrial, Energy & Environment

Student's LinkedIn

Company: GEM is an industrial company that aims to create more efficiency and performance in motors through their multi-gear motor design.

Inspiration: Kiran was inspired to start GEM after seeing his co-founders original patent application for a multi-gear motor, and identifying improvements he could offer the design.

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GigScore | Finance / FinTech / Blockchain

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** GigScore is a fintech company that solves the problem of income verification to landlords and lenders through a unique paystub that analyzes and reports future earning potential.

**Inspiration:** Elizabeth was inspired to start GigScore while searching for an apartment and struggling to show proof of income for her freelance tutoring and babysitting work to future landlords.

HelioSucrose | Cleantech / Sustainability

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** HelioSucrose solves the current solar energy supply and demand mismatch by increasing the Net Present Value (NPV) proposition for low-income community solar projects.

**Inspiration:** Connor was inspired to start HelioSucrose after his co-founder received a quote on solar panels that would end up costing him between $8,177 and $9,915 over traditional electric service during the 20-year life of the panels.

Impact Food | Food & Beverage

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Impact Food is a food technology platform that harnesses the power of plants and scientific innovation to create delicious plant-based seafood that provides nutrition without extinction.

**Inspiration:** Kelly was inspired to start Impact Food after joining UC Berkeley's Alternative Meats Challenge Lab and learning that less than 3% of the world’s population of bluefin tuna is left.

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**INERTIA | Education**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** INERTIA is an experiential pop-up that changes the look and feel of STEM via an AR application that helps attendees explore topics through hands-on, colorful experiences.

**Inspiration:** Karina was inspired to start INERTIA after noticing that the reason girls and historically excluded individuals fall out of the STEM pipeline is because of the tight and constraining pre-conception and culture of STEM.

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**INN>CHRG | Transportation**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** INN>CHRG is a transportation company that solves the problem of finding reliable electric charges for electric vehicle drivers.

**Inspiration:** Angel was inspired to start INN>CHRG after writing a sustainable energy policy promoting the quick adaptation of green energies as part of a United Nations conference.

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**Kelped | Agriculture & Food Supply**

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Kelped is a food supply startup that aims to fight global warming by reducing methane emissions via their seaweed diets for cattle.

**Inspiration:** Joyance was inspired to start Kelped after going to South Padre Island and noticing the excess of seaweed that was getting disposed of monthly, and subsequently learning that seaweed has been proven to reduce methane production in cattle.

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Latina Grad Guide | Education

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Latina Grad Guide is a social impact venture that supports Latina women interested in graduate and professional education through events and digital resources.

**Inspiration:** Valerie was inspired to start Latina Grad Guide after providing academic support to undocumented and transfer students, and seeing how in today's job market, a bachelor's degree is not as valuable as it once was for these students.

Lexmetics | Fashion & Beauty

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Lexmetics is a clean ingredient makeup line with completely sustainable packaging formulated for all women of color.

**Inspiration:** Lexus was inspired to start Lexmetics after a lupus diagnosis back in 2016 prompted her to tap into her passion for the beauty industry.

LIMBER Prosthetics & Orthotics Inc | Healthcare

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** LIMBER is a 3D printing & digital design company that solves the worldwide accessibility crisis through personalized, affordable prosthetic limbs.

**Inspiration:** Luca was inspired to start LIMBER after joining UC San Diego's CHEI and DroneLab and partnering with Professor Falko Kuester on a grassroots effort to develop full-scale transtibial unibody prosthetics.

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Student Participants

**Louis | Healthcare**

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Louis is a healthcare company that aims to open the door to an educational and high-quality life for the blind through its innovative braille display packaged as a smartphone case.

**Inspiration:** Jinsung was inspired to start Louis after seeing first-hand how large, awkward, and expensive braille machines are after running into a person holding one on his way to class.

**MedLance | Healthcare**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** MedLance is a healthcare company that increases the accessibility, speed, and success of those developing products to improve health by connecting companies with world-class MedTech consultants.

**Inspiration:** Tong was inspired to start MedLance after realizing that the pipeline between medical device developers and the talent/information they desperately needed to commercialize products was broken.

**Medsix | Healthcare**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Medsix is a healthcare company building novel biosensors and automated software for surgical drain monitoring.

**Inspiration:** Geoffrey was inspired to start Medsix after his co-founder, a practicing hepatobiliary-pancreatic surgeon, saw that his patients, when monitored on the med-surg floor, experienced delays in detection of complications that may arise after complex surgery.

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MUNCH Jerky LLC | Food & Beverage

Student's LinkedIn

Company: MUNCH Jerky is a food startup offering a more flavorful flank steak jerky.

Inspiration: Selim was inspired to start MUNCH Jerky after becoming so obsessed with the homemade flank steak jerky at a local golf course that he started going to the driving range just to get more jerky.

NetPrep | Education

Student's LinkedIn

Company: NetPrep is an education startup that solves the problem of organizing and managing student course load through an app that helps students manage multiple platforms, applications, and assignments.

Inspiration: Victor was inspired to start NetPrep after studying for a class and noticing that he had to check many different websites for various due dates, which was very time consuming and caused missed assignments as the course load grew.

Nova Apparel NYC | Fashion & Beauty

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Nova Apparel NYC is a fashion startup that helps female athletes find a balance between aesthetics, comfort, and practicality through their unique athletic dress.

Inspiration: Mia was inspired to start Nova Apparel NYC after learning, as a nationally-ranked female squash player, her options for clothing and sponsorships were much more limited than they were for male players.

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Nutripair | Healthcare

Student's LinkedIn

Company: Nutripair is a tech-enabled health and wellness company trying to solve chronic illnesses through an affordable, efficient, and hyper-personalized mobile food shopping experience.

Inspiration: Catlin was inspired to start Nutripair after growing up in a genetically predisposed Type 2 Diabetic family allowed her to see the negative repercussions of an unhealthy diet.

Olera, Inc. | Healthcare

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Olera is a healthcare startup that simplifies elder care by providing a digital hub for families and caretakers to manage the care of their loved ones.

Inspiration: Jesse was inspired to start Olera, Inc. after conducting 60 interviews with seniors, caregivers, and service providers in the elder and disability services industry, and seeing the gap in technology for senior caregivers.

Open Accent | Retail, Commerce & Shopping

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: Open Accent is an e-commerce company that helps fashion lovers discover clothing from underrepresented female fashion designers through their online store.

Inspiration: Elena was inspired to start Open Accent after her and her co-founder, two Chinese first-generation international students passionate about fashion and design, were unsatisfied with their own online shopping experience.

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Plalgae | Industrial, Energy & Environment

Student's LinkedIn

Company: Plalgae is an environmental startup solving the crisis of plastic waste through a more sustainable alternative to single use plastic made from seaweed.

Inspiration: Mia was inspired to start Plalgae after growing up in Serbia enabled her to constantly see the devastating impact of plastic pollution on our environment.

POWAN Initiative | Education

Website Link | Student's LinkedIn

Company: POWAN Initiative is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to create a more equitable future for students in education through free virtual 1-1 tutoring, mentoring, and other academic solutions.

Inspiration: Ankita was inspired to start POWAN Initiative after the impact of her high school teachers encouraged her to expand on her solo tutoring activities to serve the broader needs of her local community.

QRx | Healthcare

Student's LinkedIn

Company: QRx is an end-to-end healthcare SaaS that leverages blockchain technology with a focus on optimizing prescription management for patients and healthcare providers in the form of "SmartScripts".

Inspiration: Timothy was inspired to start QRx after his co-founder highlighted the challenges and inefficiencies they experienced working in a dispensary.

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Seikai Education Group, LLC. | Education

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Seikai Education Group is striving to reduce educational inequality through WeClass, an educational content creator that helps students who lack high-quality learning opportunities.

**Inspiration:** Naomi was inspired to start Seikai Education Group after her company providing vocational entrepreneurship study programs to Asian students was put on hold due to COVID-19, and she began to identify new challenges with remote-first learning.

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SFluor | Cleantech / Sustainability

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** SFluor is a cleantech startup manufacturing a new, super-hard, heat-resistant photo-curing polymer for firms seeking high performance and productivity.

**Inspiration:** Tatyana was inspired to start SFluor after discovering a novel visible light promoted photopolymer while working in her lab.

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Showcase | Education

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Showcase is an education startup that helps students increase their competitive advantage as job candidates through their online platform that helps build professional experience.

**Inspiration:** Bryan was inspired to start Showcase after constantly finding himself looking for ways to increase his skills to stand out as an applicant for internships and full-time positions.

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**SOAR Composites LLC | Cleantech / Sustainability**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** SOAR Composites is a sustainability startup solving the problem of plastic in the athletic apparel market through their cooling fabric converted from plant waste.

**Inspiration:** Mason was inspired to start SOAR Composites after discovering the impact that carbon fiber has on the environment, and that there is a novel material found in all plants that possesses qualities better than most plastics in the world.

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**Sonder | Travel & Tourism**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Sonder is a travel startup helping alleviate the pains of solo travel through its innovative app that pairs travelers looking to create more meaningful connections.

**Inspiration:** Gabriella was inspired to start Sonder after her co-founder used Tinder to find a travel companion in Puerto Rico. While the experience was positive, they realized that this could have had major safety issues, and decided they would build a better solution.

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**The Giddy Thrifter | Retail, Commerce & Shopping**

**Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** The Giddy Thrifter is a retail startup solving issues caused by fast fashion through its collection of new, used, vintage, and upcycled fashion and decor.

**Inspiration:** Mariah was inspired to start The Giddy Thrifter after discovering her love for thrifting while furnishing her first apartment with unique finds.

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The Pelvic Floor Store | Retail, Commerce & Shopping

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** The Pelvic Floor Store is a healthcare startup that provides pelvic peace for busy women so they can overcome feminine health conditions and get on with their lives.

**Inspiration:** Betsy was inspired to start The Pelvic Floor Store when, as the first board-certified female urogynecologist that treats women for incontinence, urinary tract infections, and vaginal conditions, she became frustrated with the difficulty in finding reliable pelvic health products.

Vitruvian VDR | AI

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Vitruvian is a software company solving fit uncertainty in the apparel e-commerce space with their size suggestion tool and virtual dressing room technology.

**Inspiration:** Ileana was inspired to start Vitruvian VDR after her and her sister became increasingly frustrated with the number of online apparel orders they would return due to poor fit.

Wallagio | Retail, Commerce & Shopping

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Wallagio is a retail startup that takes interior spaces from meh to wow with their high-impact wall decals for tech, engineering, music and gaming lovers.

**Inspiration:** Marcos was inspired to start Wallagio after working as a contributing artist for a wall decal company and noticing the lack of options focused on technology, engineering, military, gaming and entrepreneurship.

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**Warrior | Healthcare**

**Website Link | Student's LinkedIn**

**Company:** Warrior is a telehealth startup that connects people with high quality sports medicine specialists and physical therapists for virtual and in-person care.

**Inspiration:** Stephen was inspired to start Warrior after experiencing overuse injuries during intense training periods as a NCAA athlete.