Catalyst Advisory Next.

FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT
A Student Showcase on UN Goals

19 & 20 April 2025, 10am ET

Day 1: Viewing Innovation Through the UN Lens

10 - 10.05am	Welcome
	Official Launch of Leadership & Innovation Lab's partnership with Catalyst Next
10.05 - 10.20am	Keynote Speech by Tommaso Paiar
10.20 - 10.50am	UN Goals, Powered by Students.
	Case 1: Franklin & Sonya Zhang - 30 Day Challenge
	Case 2: Alicia Li - Food For Thought?
	Case 3: Ciana Tzuo - Tact&Tech
10.50 - 11.15am	Panel with UN Experts
	Tommaso Paiar & Advit Nath
11.15 - 11.30am	Closing Remarks by Advit Nath
	Wrap Up

Day 2: Exploring Research Inspired by UN Goals

10 - 10.05am	Welcome
10.05 - 10.15am	Unlocking Global Impact: Researching UN Goals in High School
10.15 - 10.55am	Empowering the SDGs: Student Research for UN Impact. Selected academic research papers & presentations
10.55 - 11.15am	LIL Venture Fund

- Announcement of winners of IdeAction Global Pitch Competition (Apr-Nov'25 Funding Cycle)
- Award of funding from LVF

UN Experts

Tommaso Paiar
Advisor,
Catalyst Advisory

Advit Nath
Advisor,
Catalyst Advisory

Jiaqi Chen
Co-Founder &
Associate Director,
Catalyst Next

Organizers

Maya Gobert
Founder & Director,
Leadership &
Innovation Lab

Avi Hegland-Fisher
LIL Instructor, JD,
Wharton School

Diving into Student Innovation

CASE 1:

**Franklin Zhang
& Sonya Zhang**
30 Day Challenge

Franklin Zhang is a Running Start Program student, concurrently completing his high school education at Bellevue High School and earning an Associate Degree at Bellevue College in 2025. Passionate about AI, user experience, and real-world applications, he serves as the Tech Lead for the "30 Day Me" habit tracker app (30day.me), a platform that leverages AI to support personal wellness and self- improvement by helping users build life-changing habits over time. He has also led multiple AI and data analytics projects, including the Rove payment reward preference study affiliated with the Harvard Ventures TCH Summer program, course-maker tooling for the "STEM for Others" educational system, and the "Remember This" multi-modal personal memory bank app. In 2021, he earned the USA Computing Olympiad (USACO) Silver award, demonstrating his strong problem- solving and programming skills.

Sonya Zhang, a freshman at Eastside Preparatory School, is a recipient of President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence in the Advanced Learning Program at Odle Middle school. A dedicated ballet dancer for nine years, Sonya has trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB) and top US ballet summer intensives, including the School of American Ballet (SAB) and American Ballet Theatre (ABT). She has performed leading and major child roles in 90+ sessions, reaching 170,000 audiences in productions like A Midsummer Night's

Dream and Swan Lake. She has earned top awards in ballet competitions, including YAGP (Top 12), ADCIBC (Top 2), WBAC (Top 1), and Showstopper (Top 1), and won Top 1 in Chinese dance solo at the International Dance Competition of Great ChinaYouth.

Additionally, Sonya is an accomplished percussionist, selected for Jr All State Band (2023 & 2024), and multiple gold awards in WorldStrides Music Festivals. Her passion for creativity and impact extends beyond the arts —she served as Marketing & Product Lead for the 30 Day Me AI project, where she applied her skills in branding, outreach, and user engagement to drive adoption and accessibility, helping users build life-changing habits over time.

30 Day Me: Small Steps, Big Changes

30 Day Me is an AI-powered app that helps users build positive habits through 30-day challenges, reinforcing the idea that small, consistent actions drive meaningful changes. Currently, the app provides GenAI-powered habit suggestions based on web recommendations, making personal growth easy and accessible. Looking ahead, 30 Day Me will expand its reach by offering AI-driven tools for organizations—such as mental health nonprofits, dance studios, and book clubs—to create customized challenges. In the long term, the platform will connect users with both professional and AI coaches, offering personalized guidance to enhance self-improvement journeys.

Aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), 30 Day Me actively promotes health and well-being (Goal 3) by encouraging habits like exercise, mindfulness, and better sleep, and supports quality education (Goal 4) through structured learning challenges.

We strongly believe that small, achievable daily actions—such as taking a 15-minute walk or reading a book—can create a ripple effect, driving meaningful societal change. By empowering individuals, organizations, and communities, 30 Day Me goes beyond a habit tracker—it is a catalyst for lifelong learning, well-being, and lasting impact.

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Diving into Student Innovation

CASE 2:
Alicia Li
Food For Thought?

Alicia Li is a junior at the Horace Mann School in New York City. She's dedicated to using her background in AI to mitigate important environmental issues. Besides being passionate about food waste, she also loves doing math and making music. She's been playing the violin for ten years and sings both solo and in choirs during her free time.

Food for Thought is a project focused on food waste education and waste-conscious action. Food for Thought comprises two main initiatives: the first aspect is a workshop tackling the impacts of food waste, including global warming and food insecurity, and how individuals can actively reduce their food waste.

The other main component is a food tracker that uses AI to identify items in your fridge, keep track of expiration dates, and provide helpful recipes so as little food is thrown away as possible.

CASE 3:
Ciana Tzuo
Tact&Tech

I'm Ciana. I love exploring big questions about identity and what makes us who we are. I'm really curious about how we stay the same person even as we grow and change. I enjoy breaking down complex ideas and looking at them from different angles to find answers that make sense.

I'm also passionate about tech and finding creative ways to solve problems. I believe in empowering women in fields that are traditionally male-dominated, and I want to be part of changing that landscape. I'm drawn to the humanities because they help me understand people and the world better, and I love using comedy to see the lighter side of life.

Outside of academics, I'm a nationally ranked competitive golfer. I love the challenge and discipline of the sport. I also have a creative side—I enjoy theatre and love singing. Whether it's on the stage or on the golf course, I'm always looking for ways to learn and grow.

Diving into Student Research

Jack Andreuccetti

The Determinants of Financial Literacy Programs in the US

AUTHOR'S BIO

Jack Andreuccetti is a dedicated student with a strong passion for economics and social impact. Jack is actively involved in research on financial literacy, particularly focusing on the barriers faced by immigrants in the United States. In addition to research, Jack writes about financial education topics on his blog (financialliteracy.blog) where he shares insights and practical advice. Jack is also an accomplished scholar and athlete. He is a National Merit Semifinalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and a recipient of the CollegeBoard's National Hispanic Recognition Award for outstanding academic achievement. Jack is committed to community service, tutoring English and volunteering at Nourish New Jersey. Jack also founded a financial literacy course, where he partners with local community groups to offer the class to native Spanish speakers. Outside of academics, Jack is a competitive soccer player and enjoys spending time with his family.

ABSTRACT

The financial landscape is becoming increasingly complex, with the rise of diverse financial products, technologies, and new investment options, making financial knowledge more crucial than ever. However, immigrants and non-English speakers in the United States face significant obstacles in acquiring the financial literacy essential to their economic security. This paper examines the relationship between financial knowledge, immigration, time spent living in the U.S., and English language proficiency. Drawing on data from two national data sets, the research reveals that non-native English speakers demonstrate lower financial literacy in the United States, proportionate to their English proficiency.

New immigrants also exhibit poor financial sophistication, which improves the longer they reside in the U.S. While financial education courses positively affect financial literacy, their impact varies across demographic groups. This paper concludes by underscoring the critical need for financial literacy initiatives tailored to immigrants and non-English speakers, to increase familiarity and remove barriers to the U.S. financial system. Expanding access to financial education and banking services is essential for integrating these populations, ultimately enhancing their economic security.

Diving into Student Research

Vicram Dhama

A Comprehensive Analysis into the Rise of Nvidia's Stock Price

AUTHOR'S BIO

Vicram Dhama is a 15-year-old high school student living in Long Island, New York, descending from an Indian Family. He attends the Wheatley School, where he is an honors student with a love for math and history, hoping to one day get a job in the finance or accounting field. He is currently deeply involved with the school's DECA and Stock Market Club, competing in regional tournaments for both clubs. His interest in the stock market was sparked by the movie Dumb Money, which details how GameStop was able to make a late revival in the Stock Market. Vicram is able to balance his rigorous courses with extracurriculars like wrestling and internships at local businesses.

ABSTRACT

Financial analysts, stock market investors, and tech savvy customers are all invested in the skyrocketing price of Nvidia's stock. This research paper takes a deep dive into what has caused this massive boom in price for Nvidia's stock through a thorough look into the company's hold on the tech industry and its smart business decisions. By also reviewing Nvidia's financial performance through its history, this paper provides a view into how the increased reliance on artificial intelligence and the way the economy has played out over the past few years have also factored into their incredible boost into the face of investing.The analysis in this paper leads to the conclusion that Nvidia's success was enabled by their choke hold over the industry and advantages in many sectors in regards to their industry.