

THE LEADERS

AUSTIN / X-FACTOR



Andrea Albanez / School of Communication '20

Born and raised in Southern California, Andrea studies Communication Studies, Business Institutions, and Integrated Marketing Communications. She's a part of two startups at The Garage: Ribbon, an employee recognition technology company, and Connect & Care (see Matt Zients), a nonprofit tech startup that aims to connect young people to impactful organizations around the world. She has worked in digital marketing and business strategy roles for companies in the nonprofit, financial services, and retail sectors. She also participated in Wildfire, The Garage's summer pre-accelerator program, in 2019.



Ibhraheem Alinur / McCormick '20

Ibraheem is a Gates Millennium Scholar from a small suburb outside of Orlando, Florida, currently studying Industrial Engineering and Design. He is the founder of City Health Tech, which prevents viral outbreak in K-12 schools through an Internet of Things sink attachment that tracks and encourages longer hand washing times. Ibraheem has experience working in a tech accelerator for digital manufacturing and city infrastructure solutions and is a part of the Obama Foundation's Community Leadership Corps. He also has experience as a professional magician and loves to dance!



Jihad Esmail / Weinberg '21

Born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, Jihad studies Economics and Entrepreneurship. He has served as Director of Launch, Northwestern's student-run startup incubator, as well as Executive Vice President of the Muslim-Cultural Students Association. Last summer, he worked to build the foundations of a student entrepreneurial ecosystem at Youngstown State University and organized Hustle, the university's first student entrepreneurship conference. More recently, he joined another startup at The Garage, Authentic Media Ascension (see Mateo Price) and founded PALACED, a venture studio supporting the action and development of impact-driven entrepreneurs and organizers.



Katie Hoffman / School of Communication '21

Katie, who grew up in New York City, is majoring in Communication Studies. She tweeted for the Mayor of New York City, worked for a PR firm in London, strategized for a startup within The Garage, and has experience in digital marketing and brand partnerships. She currently serves as an executive board member of the only student-run Northwestern marketing club as well as the marketing head of the nonprofit organization SMILE (Students Making Inpatient Care Entertaining). In 2020, she will be a summer analyst at Goldman Sachs focusing on digital and product design within Marcus by Goldman Sachs.

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Vincent Park / Weinberg '20

Vincent is a co-founder of CatsWork, a startup that helps college students land their ideal jobs through professional networking. His professional background is in investment banking and supply chain, and he studies Economics and Political Science. From Deerfield, Illinois, Vincent is passionate about community service, fusion jazz, and cooking.



Mateo Price / Weinberg '21

Mateo is a junior studying Psychology and Economics hailing from the Chicagoland area. His journey with entrepreneurship started in high school, where he co-owned a sports website that went from zero to more than a million views and a team of 20 in under two years. Equipped with a passion for brands, social media, and building community, he founded Authentic Media Ascension (see Jihad Esmail) at Northwestern, which utilizes social analytics and strategy to drive digital engagement and growth for brands. The business started with a cold email to his favorite YouTube influencer and has led to multiple clients as well as projects with the Chicago Bulls and Kraft Heinz.



Nicholas Tan / McCormick '21

Nicholas, who studies Mechanical Engineering and the Kellogg Certificate Program in Managerial Analytics, is a co-founder of CatsWork, a startup that helps college students land their ideal jobs through professional networking. His experience includes working in five countries in Southeast Asia with both startups and multinational corporations. He served as the president of the Singapore Society, and is also heavily involved in research in Computational Engineering on campus.



Matt Zients / SESP '20

Born and raised in Washington, DC to a South African mother and American father, Matt is passionate about civic engagement, volunteering, and social justice. He is a senior studying Social Policy, Design, and Playwriting. Over five years ago, Matt and his two brothers founded Connect & Care (see Andrea Albanez), a nonprofit tech startup that aims to connect young people to impactful organizations around the world. In his free time, Matt enjoys taking photos and attempting to write plays.