



nfte!
Mid-Atlantic
**YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CHALLENGE 2025**

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WITH ASSOCIATE SUPPORT FROM:





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Changing lives.
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you matters to us.

At EY, we're proud to support the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. It's one of the ways we're helping to make our community a better place to work and live. A better and brighter future starts with all of us.

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Shape the future
with confidence

■ ■ ■
The better the question.
The better the answer.
The better the world works.

Agenda

NFTE Mid-Atlantic Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

Monday, June 16, 2025

- Host** Rosalie Delgado, **Founder, IndependMe**
NFTE Class of 2024
- Judges** Charlize Leon-Mata, **Yale University Student**
Marissa Y. Mack, **Webster Bank**
Stephen Puntillo, **EY**
Bharanidharan Rajakumar, **Transfr**
- Student Finalists** **Energize** - Dorian Guzman-Lora, Atmosphere Academy
Athletic Unity - Christina Dolkar & Chrisbel Martinez,
The Academy of Finance and Enterprise
Kimberlite AP - Bandom Guzman, Atmosphere Academy
- Teacher Awards** Robert Piercey, **Regional Director, NFTE Mid-Atlantic**
Judy Stewart, **Creative Sense, Inc., NFTE Advisory Board**
- Volunteer Awards** Shawn Leventhal, **Jump In Networks, NFTE Advisory Board**
Noelle Calautti, **EY, NFTE Advisory Board Chair**
- Semifinalist Chat** Mary Wang, **Lead Program Associate, NFTE Mid-Atlantic**
Nicole Nunez, **FindSight** - Jewish Renaissance Foundation
Amrita Ricknauth, **Oilmist** - Yonkers Partners in Education
- With featured guest alumna:*
Elizabeth Manuchian, **Aqua Cuffs** - *NFTE Class of 2024*
- Closing Remarks** Dr. J. D. LaRock, **President & CEO, NFTE**
- Announcement of Winners**

Your prosperity is our purpose.

Santander applauds Network for Teaching
Entrepreneurship for making a real difference.



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Host

Rosalie Delgado

Founder, **IndependMe**

Student, Jewish Renaissance Foundation

NFTE Class of 2024

Rosalie Delgado is a driven high school senior with a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship. Set to pursue a degree in Business Analytics and Marketing at Rutgers Business School, Rosalie has already begun making strides in the business world.



In 2024, she completed NFTE's EE course, where she developed IndependMe - a groundbreaking mobile app designed to help children build essential life skills and independence through interactive, gamified learning. IndependMe earned first place at the Mid-Atlantic Regionals and was a quarter-finalist at the 2024 NFTE National Challenge, showcasing her commitment to impactful, youth-focused solutions. She was recently honored as EY's 2025 Youth Scholar for New Jersey at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Gala in Newark.



Our 2024 finalists and judges (c) Justin Mayer

Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge 5

Judges

Charlize León Mata

Student. Yale Univeristy

NFTE Class of 2020



Charlize León Mata is a first-generation student originally from the Dominican Republic, but presently lives in the New York Metro Area. She is currently a rising senior at Yale University, double majoring in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration and History of Science, Medicine, and Public Health, with an Advanced Language Certificate in Spanish. Passionate about the intersection of public health, law, and social equity, Charlize plans to pursue a career in law to advocate for historically marginalized communities.

Charlize's entrepreneurial journey began as a high school student when she created Gifting Bites, a mobile app designed to connect food businesses with nonprofits to reduce food waste and fight food insecurity. Her innovative pitch won first place in the NFTE New York Metro Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2020 and earned her the national runner-up title. Now, as a NFTE alumna and judge, Charlize is excited to support the next generation of changemakers.

Though she is no longer actively pursuing Gifting Bites, Charlize remains deeply engaged in food justice and community work. She served two terms as an AmeriCorps Emerging Leaders member, mentoring youth and implementing local public health initiatives, and currently sits on the board of Haven's Harvest, a New England-based nonprofit dedicated to reducing food waste through food recovery.

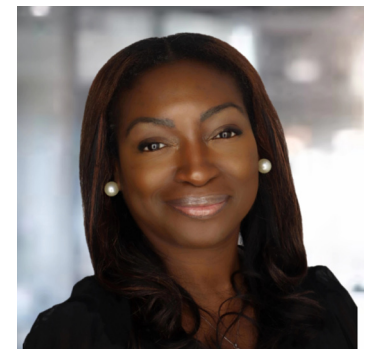
At Yale, Charlize is a campus leader and advocate. She is the co-founder and co-president of Yale Lawtinas, the university's first pre-law organization for Latinas, and has served as a peer liaison for La Casa Cultural, a project lead for the Yale Hunger Project, and a Matriculate College Fellow.

Charlize is a proud Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, LEDA Scholar, Elk Scholar, and Yale President's Public Service Fellow. This summer, she will be interning in the chambers of Hon. Peggy Kuo at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York as a Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Fellow.

Marissa Y. Mack

Managing Director, Not-For-Profit Commerical Banking

Webster Bank



Marissa Y. Mack currently serves as a Managing Director on the Not-For-Profit Commercial Banking Team at Webster Bank. In this role, she strategically connects nonprofit organizations with banking solutions, providing guidance to foster sustainable growth, impactful partnerships, and effective marketing strategies for her team.

Prior to joining Webster Bank, Marissa honed her extensive expertise through roles as a Marketing Manager at Greenwich Associates in Connecticut and as a Customer Relationship Manager at Bank of America in Maryland.

In 2012, Marissa undertook a transformative journey to Haiti, where she contributed to post-earthquake home rebuilding efforts and conducted research with the University of Connecticut on local conditions. This experience sparked her deep passion for community building and highlighted the importance of partnerships in promoting long-term economic sustainability. Thus motivated, she became actively involved in local government, serving as an appointed member of Manhattan Community Board 11, first as Treasurer and later as Chair of the Economic Development and Culture Committee.

Marissa's leadership and dedication to community advocacy has earned her recognition as a City & State Nonprofit Trailblazer and in 2020, she became an Alumna of the Coro Leadership New York program (LNY). She currently serves on the board of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and was recently appointed to the board of Hearts to Homes. Her broad engagement also includes contributions to the NYC Imagine Awards Steering Committee, the NYU Entrepreneurship Alumni Network, the Temple University NY Alumni Association, and the Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from Temple University, a Certificate in Survey Research from the University of Connecticut, and a Master's in Public Administration from New York University.

Judges, continued

Stephen Puntillo

Associate Director & Americas Corporate
Responsibility Leader
EY



Steve Puntillo serves as EY's Americas Corporate Responsibility Leader helping deliver on the firm's community impact strategy and EY Ripples program throughout the Americas. He began his career at EY in the Assurance practice where he performed audits for various public and private companies followed by time in the Strategy & Transactions practice where he performed merger and acquisition financial diligence for private equity and corporate clients.

Steve holds a BS in accounting and an MBA in finance from Saint Joseph's University. He is a New York State licensed Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Steve is passionate about the role the private and public sector play in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges. In his spare time, he enjoys walking with his dog, playing piano, boxing, reading, and watching the New York Mets.



Highlights from the 2024 Challenge (c) Justin Mayer

Bharani Rajakumar

CEO
Transfr, Inc.



Bharani Rajakumar is an accomplished entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of Transfr Inc., a cutting-edge company revolutionizing job training through virtual reality simulations. With a deep passion for education and a drive to make a positive impact, Bharani has emerged as a leading figure in the industry, leveraging immersive technology to bridge the skills gap and empower individuals to succeed in high-demand fields.

Bharani's entrepreneurial journey began with the co-founding of LearnBop, an intelligent math tutoring software that garnered significant recognition and ultimately led to its acquisition. This early success fueled Bharani's ambition to push the boundaries of technology-enabled learning and create meaningful solutions to address the evolving needs of the workforce.

Driven by a vision of democratizing access to quality job training, Bharani founded Transfr with the goal of equipping individuals with the critical skills required for well-paying careers. Transfr's innovative approach combines virtual reality with immersive, hands-on training, providing learners with realistic experiences and empowering them to excel in fields such as manufacturing and skilled trades. Through strategic partnerships with a variety of organizations, Bharani has positioned Transfr as a catalyst for economic development.

Bharani's exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence have garnered industry recognition. Furthermore, his unwavering dedication and entrepreneurial acumen earned him a finalist spot for Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2024 in the New York City region. In 2024 Transfr was recognized as one of the most innovative companies in the world by Fast Company in the field of education and ranked 106th on that year's Inc. 5000 list.

Bharani holds a B.S. in finance from the University of Florida and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University.

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- Judy Stewart**, Creative Sense, Inc.
- Christiaan van Driel**, UBS
- Holly Wallace**, Merrill Lynch



Highlights from the 2024 Challenge (c) Justin Mayer

Finalist Businesses

- Pitch Presenters:**
Athletic Unity - Christina Dolkar & Chrisbel Martinez, The Academy of Finance and Enterprise
We empower young athletes by providing affordable, high-quality apparel for schools and teams, fostering teamwork, unity, and success. Our products range from uniform sets (jersey & shorts) to socks, compression shirts and bottoms that can be designed by the customer.
- Energize** - Dorian Guzman-Lora, Atmosphere Academy
Our mission is to fill the gap in STEM education and reverse the shortage of engineers in the United States with gamified learning. Our website runs a huge library of accessible video games that are fast-paced, collaborative, and competitive, and they allow you to build projects that can be saved and added onto your resume so that your dream company can see your accomplishments.
- Kimberlite AP** - Brandom Guzman, Atmosphere Academy
Just as kimberlite rock reveals hidden diamonds, our AP learning platform empowers learners to dig deeper, master content, and apply their knowledge to maximize their potential. Using adaptive learning technology, we diagnose students' weak areas and allow them to connect with certified AP instructors for on-the-spot or scheduled 1-on-1 tutoring, all within a single dashboard.
- Semifinalist / Alumni Panel:**
Nicole Nunez, **FindSight** - Jewish Renaissance Foundation
FindSight helps incoming college students choose a major by providing fast, data-driven guidance to help them make confident decisions about their path.
- Amrita Ricknauth, **Oilmist** - Yonkers Partners in Education
OilMist solves the problem of thinning hair, and hair-loss by providing essential nutrients that encourages hair to grow back healthier and longer.
- Elizabeth Manuchian, **Aqua Cuffs** - **NFTE Class of 2024**
Aqua Cuffs is a shark-repellent band worn around the wrist or ankle while swimming that can safely deter sharks by means of an electromagnetic field.



Empowering youth through entrepreneurial education to foster economic resilience and growth in a rapidly changing world.

We are inspired by these students' drive to make a positive impact and excited to see their solutions unfold in the real world. - Zuora

www.zuora.com



We are pleased to support NFTE's efforts to help activate entrepreneurial mindsets through volunteerism.

We are proud of our employee volunteers who contribute their time and skills to advance NFTE's impact.

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Community Impact

Volunteers of the Year

We are immensely grateful to all of our volunteers. This year, we are especially proud to celebrate our **Individual Volunteer of the Year, Marsha Corelien.**



Marsha has been an integral part of NFTE since taking the program as a student, and has only grown in recent years in the Mid-Atlantic region. As a senior leader at Valley National Bank, Marsha's committed and continued efforts made it possible for NFTE to begin receiving not only funding but also access to the Valley team as volunteers throughout the region. Marsha's volunteer support has reached young people across a wide range of projects since 2024. She recently judged for both NFTE's World Series of Innovation and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. She has also served as a business plan and career readiness coach during the region's Youth Entrepreneurship Summit events. In addition to a long list of professional experience, Marsha has recently launched her own HR consulting business. NFTE Mid-Atlantic thanks her for her tireless belief in our mission and wishes her huge success with her new endeavors.

We are also proud to honor our **Corporate Volunteer of the Year, Valley National Bank.**



Valley National Bank has been an exceptional partner in advancing NFTE's mission through a deep commitment to volunteerism and strategic engagement across multiple programs and regions. Over the past year alone, 93 Valley employees contributed an impressive 224 volunteer hours—demonstrating not only the breadth of their support, but also the depth of their dedication to our students and educators. Their volunteers have shown up for NFTE's Global Day of Coaching in NYC, served as judges at the Regional, National, and World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge series, coached at school sites across the Mid-Atlantic, supported our NYC Summer BizCamp, and contributed to our Founders Forum and Youth Entrepreneurship Summit. Valley National Bank's sustained, multi-regional support and dedication to student success through hands-on involvement make them a clear standout among our industry partners. Their continued investment of time, talent, and leadership truly exemplifies what this award is all about.

Thank You Challenge Sponsors

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Learn more about NFTE

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) ignites the entrepreneurial mindset with unique learning experiences that empower students to own their futures. A global nonprofit founded in 1987, NFTE provides high-quality entrepreneurship education to middle school, high school, and postsecondary students.

NFTE brings the power of entrepreneurship to students, regardless of family income, community resources, special needs, gender identity, race, or ethnicity. NFTE has educated more than a million students, delivering our programs in school, out of school, in-person, online, or through hybrid models. To learn more or make your own gift, visit www.nfte.com.

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NFTE National Supporters

Thanks to the commitment of NFTE's national donors, an increasing number of young people are prepared with the entrepreneurial mindset and startup skills required to succeed in today's innovation economy.

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Network for Teaching
Entrepreneurship

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