

SHARK  MAKERS

IMPACT

REPORT 2025-26



YEAR IN REVIEW

This year marked a transformational chapter for our inaugural year as SharkMakers (formerly Next Gen Tech 360) as we continued eleventh season and with our mission of empowering students to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders capable of solving real-world challenges. Through mentorship, hands-on learning, industry partnerships, and community collaboration, students gained the skills, confidence, and experience needed to turn ideas into impact.

Students were challenged to develop innovative, technology-driven solutions that empower individuals with disabilities and create a more accessible world. Over the course of the season, the teams transformed their ideas into impactful products, gaining hands-on industry experience, personalized mentorship from leaders, and awarded \$22,000 in scholarships.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Pitch Tank with USF
- PoweredUp
- The Hive Inclusive Community 5K
- Pitch to Kevin Harrington of Shark Tank
- Grant Cardone Foundation 10X Pitch



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robyn Mussler



Scott Vejdani



Tony Greene



Chris Wilson



Michael DeGagne



Cassandra Bernard



Tara Murphy

FINANCES

- Revenue: \$57,503
- Expenditures: \$53,123
- Net Income: \$4,380



\$22,000

Scholarships

DEMOGRAPHICS



Minority
Groups



50%



50%

IMPACT



Students Served
50 (22 Finalists)



Volunteer Hours
964



Mentors Engaged
42



Community Partners
37 (9 New)



Industry Sectors
12

SharkMakers Pitch Tank brought together students, entrepreneurs, educators, alumni, and community members for an inspiring evening focused on innovation, accessibility, and leadership development. The event provided our finalists with the opportunity to strengthen their pitching skills and network with the Tampa business community.

A business panel shared valuable insights on creating solutions alongside users, emphasizing the importance of accessibility, independence, and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities, while an alumni panel shared their experiences commenting on the strong impact the SharkMakers program has had on their career and attributing their successes to the program.

The event was further strengthened through collaboration with the USF Nault Center for Entrepreneurship, whose partnership and student participation provided attendees with exposure to entrepreneurial thinking and pathways for growth.

The evening highlighted SharkMakers' mission to support future entrepreneurs, create opportunities, and empower young people to transform their ideas into impact.





INCLUSIVE 5K & FUN RUN

As part of SharkMakers' commitment to empowering the next generation through accessible innovation and community engagement, our team proudly participated in The Hive Inclusive Community's Run for Your Honey 5K & Fun Run at Rowlett Park in Tampa. Being a part of this event aligned closely with SharkMakers' mission of developing future leaders who value empathy, accessibility, and social impact alongside entrepreneurship and technology.



FINAL PITCHES AT RHS TV

This season's final pitches marked the culmination of months of innovation and growth. While students showcased their ideas with confidence, the greatest achievement was the transformation they experienced throughout the program. Every finalist demonstrated resilience, critical thinking, leadership, and a growth mindset, proving that SharkMakers is about more than building products, it's about developing confident, capable young leaders prepared to make a lasting impact.

PITCH TO KEVIN HARRINGTON

Pathable delivered a compelling pitch to Kevin Harrington, clearly showcasing their innovative solution and the growth achieved throughout the SharkMakers program. The team articulated their value proposition, market opportunity, and long-term vision with confidence, while responding thoughtfully to investor questions. Following the presentation, Kevin Harrington offered valuable feedback and extended access to his team of experts to help further develop and scale their business model.



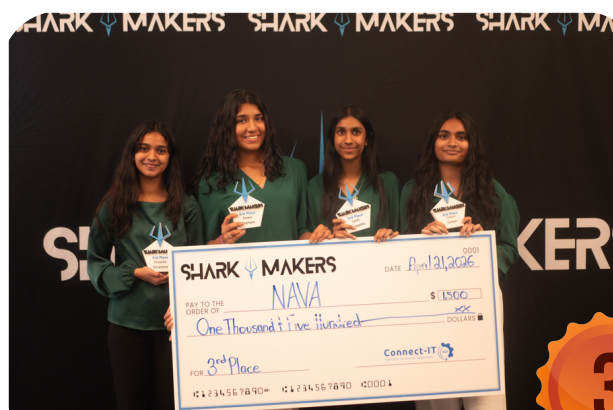
AWARD WINNERS



Aarush Shah
Ritchel Mesidor
Tapfuma Mayida
(Palm Harbor & East Lake High School)



Anushka Srivastava
Charvi Sunkari
Sahiti Yarlagaadda
Swara Dhamane
(Strawberry Crest High School)



Rhea Rachala
Sampurna Saiganesh
Sarayu Karedla
Yashika Garg
(Strawberry Crest High School)



Rhea Rachala
Sampurna Saiganesh
Sarayu Karedla
Yashika Garg
(Strawberry Crest High School)

COMMUNITY WINNERS

COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD



Tonya Whitlock, CEO of The Inclusive Hive, is a visionary community leader who transforms and empowers individuals of all abilities to live, connect, and thrive. We look forward to a continued partnership.

MENTOR MVP AWARD



Guilherme Sesternhein of Amazon Web Services is an exemplary mentor whose technical expertise and guidance empowered SharkMakers participants while consistently instilling the program's core values.

thank you!

JUDGES



Rebecca Brown



Gokul Kannan



Thomas Feindt



Kurt Heitman



Keidran Kunkel



Marvin Scaff



Tony Greene



Kyle Donovan



Robyn Mussler

thank you!

POWERED UP

SharkMakers was proud to participate in another successful PoweredUp event, showcasing our innovation and entrepreneurship program alongside leaders from the Tampa Bay tech community.

Congratulations to our winning team, Pathable, whose outstanding performance and professionalism exemplify the strength of the SharkMakers program. Their success reflects the exceptional talent emerging across Tampa Bay. The event also created valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration, connecting students and mentors with regional leaders, innovators, and community partners.

We extend our gratitude to Tampa Bay Tech for fostering experiences that bring together entrepreneurs, educators, and emerging talent. Through events like PoweredUp, students build meaningful connections, gain real-world experience, and develop the confidence and skills to become the next generation of innovators.





GRANT CARDONE FOUNDATION

SharkMakers finalists participated in the 10X Kids Pitch Off in Miami through a strategic partnership with the Grant Cardone Foundation. This experience provided students with focused, real-world training in sales and professional pitching within a high-performance environment. Participants strengthened their communication skills, built confidence, and refined their ventures through direct engagement with experienced business leaders, mentors, and judges.

SharkMakers extends its sincere appreciation to the Grant Cardone Foundation, as well as the mentors and judges whose time and expertise made this opportunity possible. Congratulations to Pathable (1st place), Nava (2nd place), and Rhova and Haptyx (3rd place), who collectively earned \$7,000 in awards to support the continued development and growth of their businesses.



SPECIAL THANKS



BUSINESS COMMUNITY

accenture

the
florida
high tech
corridor *

YOORZ ID*

RHS
TV

Adobe *

GROW
FINANCIAL *

USF Muma
College of Business
Nault Center for Entrepreneurship
UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA



J.P.Morgan

nahteava *

Epsilon

vaco

spARK
LABS
by ARK INVEST

Embarc
Collective

TAMPA
BAY
TECH

360 DIRECT ACCESS

aws

CareerSource
HILLSBOROUGH PINELLAS

PROJECT
FOCUS
FOUNDATION

THE HIVE INCLUSIVE

Steven Douglas.

CENTER FOR
PROJECT
INNOVATION

Alluvionics

TAMPA BAY
wave

BCforward

REVSURE

ELEVATE
LEARN • CONNECT • GROW

identifi
connect what matters.

Aerotek

Clearset



viiirtue

GCF THE GRANT CARDONE
FOUNDATION *

THE
SHARKITECT
GROUP

PREVAIL
MULTIMEDIA STUDIO



SPINELLO
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

LAUREN VAHLE
ENTREPRENEUR



*Sponsors

AIRING

FALL 2026.

RHS x SHARK MAKERS
TV

AN EMPOWERING DOCUSERIES FOLLOWING
THE SHARKMAKERS STUDENT JOURNEY.

