



SHARK MAKERS

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2026

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

SEASON 11 2025-26

Feburary Recap

Workshop 3 @ Principal

This month at SharkMakers, **Guilherme Sesterheim and David Malone from Amazon Web Services** led an insightful workshop on UI/UX design, architecture, and security. Guilherme emphasized the importance of user experience and clarified the difference between UI and UX, encouraging teams to simplify navigation and thoughtfully map out the user journey step by step. David highlighted the importance of building a strong architecture with security embedded at the foundation — and how those early decisions directly impact a product's ability to scale and grow.

Trident Winner (2nd Time): Pathable



Workshop 4 @ Vaco

Workshop 4 at SharkMakers focused on **marketing strategy and pitch preparation**, featuring insights from **Tony Greene**, who shared valuable advice on building scalable ideas and communicating impact with confidence. Teams participated in mentor rotations, receiving targeted feedback and hands-on guidance to refine both their product and pitch. Cassandra Bernard worked closely with students to strengthen their pitch decks — sharpening problem statements, clarifying value propositions, and elevating their visual storytelling.

Trident Winner: ClearVision AI



SETA SOUTHEASTERN EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ASSOCIATION



Our leader, **Robyn Mussler**, will be at the **SETA 2026 Spring Conference**, taking place March 1–4 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. On the afternoon of **March 2nd**, she'll present "**Sharkmakers: Empowering the Next Generation Workforce**"



DONATE



Run For Your Honey 5K and Fun Run



SharkMakers participated in the **Run For Your Honey 2026** at Rowlett Park in Tampa, hosted by **The Hive Inclusive Community**.

This inclusive 5K and Fun Run **supports individuals with disabilities** by promoting accessibility, community connection, and affordable inclusive housing initiatives — creating a place where every member can grow, find purpose, and thrive.



The **SharkMakers Pitch Tank** brings together business leaders, aspiring founders, and the USF entrepreneurship community to explore the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, and accessibility. The event features dynamic panels, interactive exhibits, and live student pitches followed by Q&A. **An experience you won't want to miss!**

5 PM - 8 PM

REGISTER NOW

27TH
MARCH

Location: Embarc Collective
802 E Whiting St. Tampa

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SHARKMAKERS-PITCH-TANK](https://bit.ly/sharkmakers-pitch-tank)





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What's Coming Up?

March

Workshop 5:

March 10th



DEADLINE

March 12th



March 13th

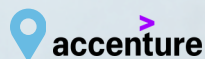
PITCH TANK

March 27th



Workshop 6:

March 31th



This workshop focuses on **advanced methodologies and final pitch preparation** as teams gear up for Pitch Tank. Hosted at RHS-TV, the same studio where the final pitches will take place, students have the opportunity to rehearse in the real environment. **Game on!**

SUBMISSION & FUNDRAISING DEADLINE!

Teams must complete all deliverables and meet their fundraising goals.

Good luck to all the teams!

Finalists Announced!

Which five teams will move forward to compete for the grand prize?

Pitch Tank is a collaboration with the USF Nault Center. Finalist teams will deliver their pitches, followed by a live Q&A session. **Open to the public — a must-see event!**



Support Our Teams!

In doing so, you are helping our students gain real-world business experience, fueling their creativity and empowering them to bring their ideas to life. **Together, we are developing the changemakers of tomorrow.**

March Celebrations Women's History Month

During **Women's History Month**, we celebrate the strength, leadership, and enduring contributions of women who shape our communities and inspire future generations. We honor the innovators, advocates, educators, and changemakers who are creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

Developmental Disabilities Month

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month reminds us that inclusion, accessibility, and opportunity should be the standard, not the exception. We celebrate the talents, achievements, and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and reaffirm our commitment to building communities where everyone can thrive.

SharkMakers Message Pillars:

Leadership | Innovation | Accessibility | Building the Future



- **Leadership that Opens Doors:** Celebrating women leaders, mentors, and students stepping forward
- **Innovation for Everyone:** Inclusive, accessibility-first design and human-centered technology
- **Building the Future:** Youth are shaping the future now!

International Women's Day, March 8th



Women in Action: Led by Robyn, supported by our women mentors (see names below), powered by 12 incredible women interns, and representing **50%** of our student participants.

Our Women Mentors: Cassandra Bernard, Angelica Chadwick, Yadira Caro, Yasmine Gardiner, Brenda Morrell, Robyn Mussler, Nisha Patel, Lauren Vahle (not in picture: Anjali Leon, Phara McLachlan, Mayra Harley)

World Down Syndrome Day

We celebrate the beauty, abilities, and extraordinary impact of individuals with Down syndrome. Every life brings unique gifts, and true inclusion means recognizing value, voice, and opportunity for all. In the words of our founder's sister, Susie, we celebrate **"Make My Day"** — a reminder to live each day with purpose, rooted in compassion, courage, and showing up fully as yourself.



MARCH HOLIDAY SPOTLIGHTS



Tune into our latest episode



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