GSV CUP 50

Presented by aws GSV Ventures

Supported by Pearson

ASU+GSV SUMMIT 2026

Look Book

Preview of the 2026 GSV Cup 50

GSV CUP 50

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

The 2026 GSV Cup 50 3
Market Map 4
GSV Cup 50: By the Numbers 5
The Global Footprint 6

K-12

Boddle Learning 8
Colleague AI 9
Coursemojo 10
CuePilot AI 11
Curipod 12
Diffit 13
Eddi 14
Edexia 15
EnlightenAI 16
Evolytes 17
Goblins 18
hoopooh 19
Journify Learning 20
Kibeam Learning 21
Kid Company 22
MEandMine 23
OKO Labs 24
Paloma Learning 25
Playlab 26
Polygence 27
Snorkl 28
Socrait 29

Higher Education

BoodleBox 31
Cadmus 32
CareerOS 33
ESAI 34
Extern 35
Jamworks 36
Kollegio AI 37
Nectir 38
Opennote 39
Shmoody 40
Solvely.ai 41
TruLeague 42
uDocz 42

Workforce & Adult Consumer

Bella AI 44
Boardy 45
BoldVoice 46
Careerflow.ai 47
Creatium 48
DeweyLearn 49
Folio 50
GoSprout 51
NEOLENS AI 52
Pace AI 53
Ropes 54
Scholé 55
Skillmaker 56
Songscription 57
UpSmith 58

The 2026 GSV Cup 50

AI has catalyzed transformation across every part of society, and nowhere is that more visible than in how the world learns, works, and builds opportunity. Across a global ecosystem of entrepreneurs, a new generation of founders is using technology to reimagine how people learn, gain skills, access jobs, and realize their potential.

The 2026 GSV Cup 50 reflects this moment of fusion—where human ingenuity, AI, and global collaboration converge to unlock new possibilities for learners, workers, and communities everywhere. **Selected from more than 3,000 global nominations**, these 50 companies represent the most exciting early-stage startups shaping the future of education and workforce skills.

The GSV Cup 50 is selected using GSV Ventures' **5 P's Framework**—a proven investment lens first shared publicly by GSV founder Michael Moe in his best-selling book 'Finding the Next Starbucks,' now used across GSV's investing and research. The framework reflects GSV's belief that the most enduring companies are built at the intersection of exceptional people, differentiated products, large markets, scalable business models, and meaningful impact.

GSV's 5 P's Framework

People

Founders and teams with the vision, integrity, and ability to execute and attract world-class talent.

Product

Differentiated, high-impact solutions that meaningfully improve how people learn, teach, and work.

Potential

Large, fast-growing opportunities with the ability to become category-defining platforms.

Predictability

Clear signals of traction, repeatable revenue, and scalable business models.

Purpose

A mission aligned with expanding access to learning, opportunity, and human potential from PreK to Gray.

Startup Market Map

K-12

boddle
colleague.ai
Coursemojo
CUEPILOT AI
Curipod
Diffit For Teachers
eddi
Edexia
EnlightenAI
Evolytes
Goblins
hoopooh
journify Evidence-Based AI Assistant for Special Education
Kibeam Spark the joy of reading
Keep it Dreaming
MEandMine
Paloma
Playlab
Polygence
snorkl
socrait
OKO

Higher Education

boodlebox
Cadmus
CareerOS
ESAI
extern
Jamworks
kollegio
nectir
Opennote
Solvely.ai
TruLeague
uDocz

Workforce & Adult Consumer

Bella
Boardy
BoldVoice
Careerflow.ai
CREATIUM
DeweyLearn
GoSprout
folio
NeoLens
Pace AI
ROPES
Scholé
Skillmaker.ai
songscription
UpSmith

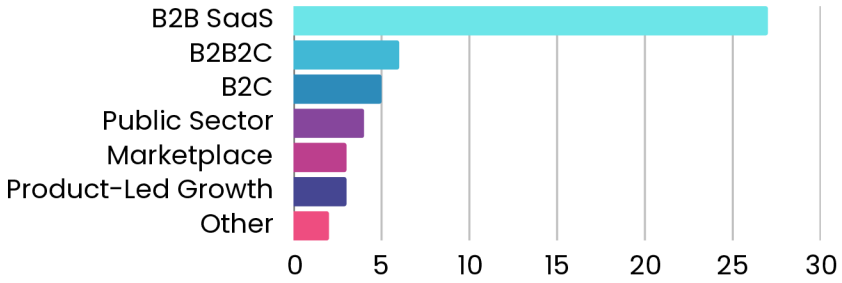
GSV Cup 50: By the Numbers

In a global, knowledge-based economy, education makes the difference—not only for individuals, but for companies and even for countries. The GSV Cup 50 reflects a new generation of founders across the world building solutions that give everyone a chance to participate in the future.

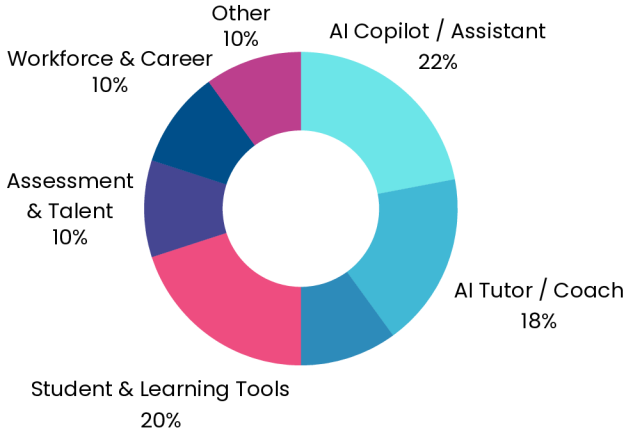
$179M
Capital Raised (Disclosed)

$292M+
Combined Valuation (Disclosed)

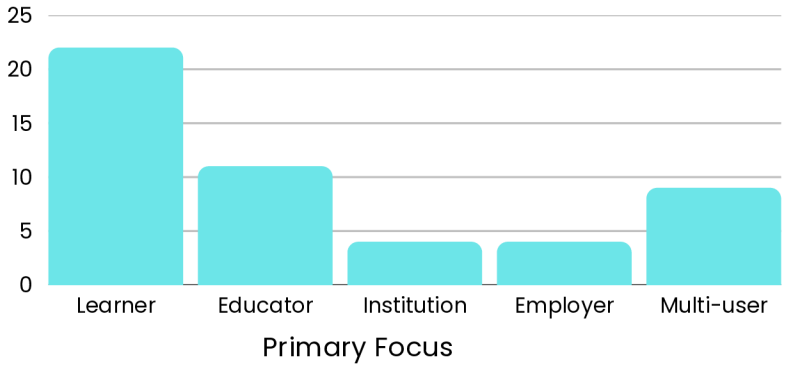
Business Models Across the GSV Cup 50



What the GSV Cup 50 is Working On



Who the GSV Cup 50 Serves



73%
Companies with Underrepresented Founders

44%
Founded by People of Color

34%
Founded by Women

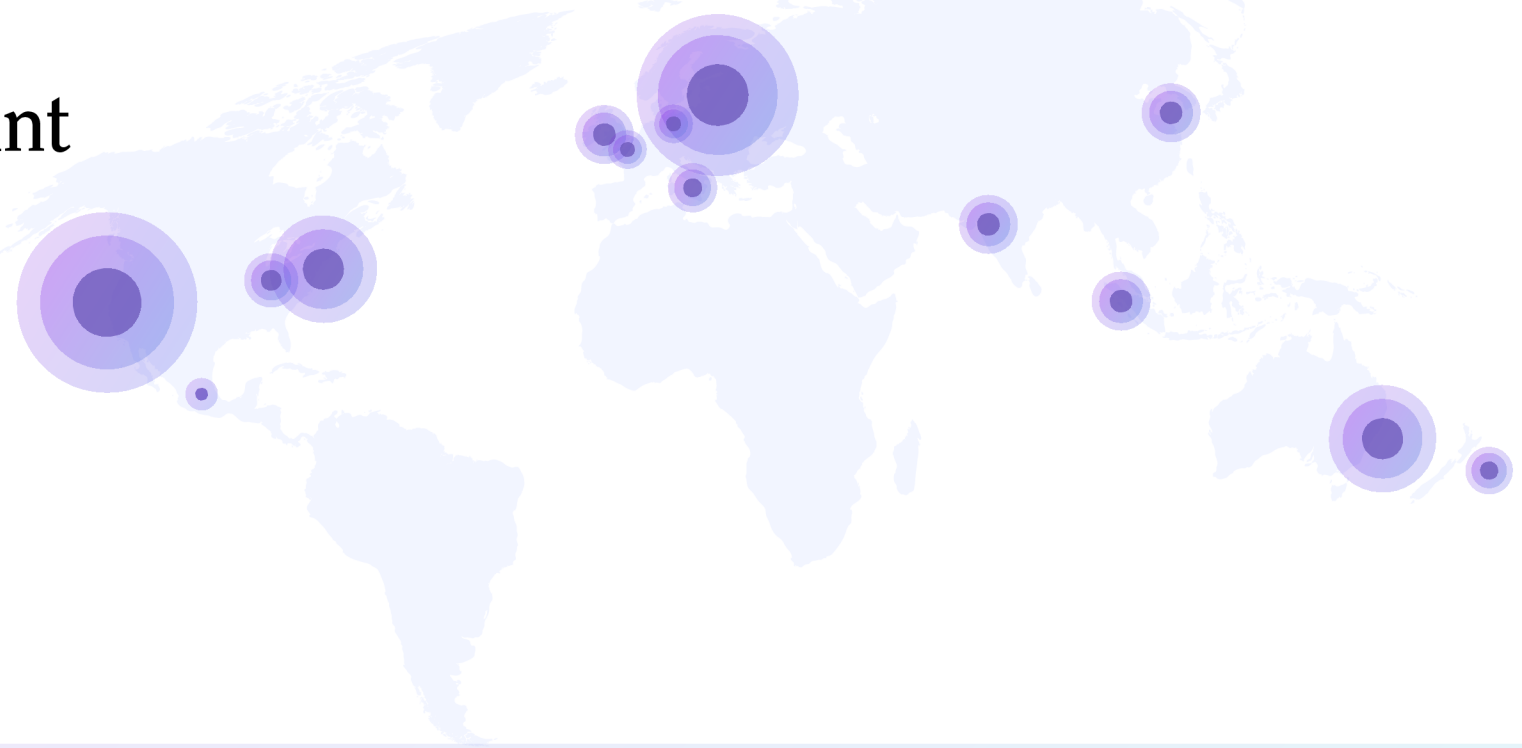
The Global Footprint

of the 2026 GSV Cup 50

60%
Serve global markets

5
Continents represented

22%
Headquartered outside of the U.S.



Australia

Melbourne
Cadmus

Brisbane
Edexia

Canada

Toronto
Boardy

Germany

Berlin
hoopooh

Iceland

Reykjavik
Evolytes

India

Kolkata
CuePilot AI

Mexico

Mexico City
uDocz

Norway

Oslo
Curipod

Spain

Barcelona
CareerOS

Switzerland

Lausanne
Scholé

United Kingdom

Surrey
Jamworks

United States

Alameda
Paloma Learning

Austin
Shmoody

Berkeley
Diffit

Brooklyn
DeweyLearn

Boston
TruLeague

Cincinnati
Creatium

Colorado Springs
BoodleBox

Dallas
Upsmith

Jersey City
Coursemojo

Kirkland
Colleague AI

Los Altos
Kid Company

Menlo Park
Polygence

Miami
GoSprout

New York City
BoldVoice
ESAI
Extern.com
Goblins
Kollegio AI
OKO Labs
Ropes

Oakland
Bella AI

Palo Alto
Pace AI

Salt Lake City
Socrait

San Diego
Snorkl

San Francisco
EnlightenAI
Folio
Journify Learning
Kibeam Learning
Nectir
Opennote
Solvely.ai
Songscription

San Jose
MEandMine

Stanford
NEOLENS AI

Sunnyvale
Careerflow.ai

Tulsa
Boddle Learning

Union City
Playlab

Wilmington
Skillmaker

Woodstock
Eddi

K-12

2026 GSV Cup 50

boddle

K–6 game-based learning brand for math, science, and ELA

Headquarters
Tulsa, OK, United States

Founding Year
2018

People



Clarence Tan
Co-founder & CEO

- Pipeline Fellow ('21)
- Game Designer — 15+ years building interactive games and children's IP



Edna Martinson
Co-founder & COO

- Forbes 30 Under 30 (Education)
- Yass Prize Awardee
- Backed by Pharrell Williams' Black Ambition and Google for Startups

Team Size
9 Full-Time

Purpose

We believe play and games are the native language of Gen Alpha. Our purpose is to harness that medium to build lasting learning experiences and iconic IP that drive real academic outcomes, while helping children develop confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong connection to learning.

Product

Boddle Learning

boddlelearning.com

Sector
K–12

Product Category
Student / Learner Tool

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B2C

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- Alpine VC
- KCRise Fund
- Rise of the Rest
- Lightship Capital

colleague.ai

An all-in-one solution that unifies curriculum, assessment, and data analytics for learning efficiency

Headquarters
Kirkland, WA, United States

Founding Year
2024

People

Team Size
18 Full-Time



Dr. Min Sun
Founder & CEO

- Former preschool teacher turned AI education leader
- Director of a national NSF- and U.S. Department of Education-funded GenAI R&D center at the University of Washington
- Built $20M+ in federally backed innovation advancing AI-powered teaching and learning



Kevin He
Co-founder & CTO

- Former Microsoft engineer and serial entrepreneur
- Co-founder & former CTO of Trendalytics, scaled to $2M+ ARR and serving Target, GAP, and Walmart prior to acquisition by HatchBeauty
- Founder of Hensun Innovation, delivering AI and data solutions for global brands including Estée Lauder and OneClick Design

Purpose

Every learner has a fully personalized learning pathway-aligned to their strengths, goals and AI-ready workforce opportunities.

Product

Colleague AI

colleague.ai

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B2C

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors

- National Science Foundation
- Institute of Educational Sciences

Coursemojo

Embeds AI supports into top-rated curricula to increase student learning and teacher efficacy

Headquarters
Jersey City, NJ, United States

Founding Year
2023

People

Team Size
22 Full-Time



Dacia Toll
Co-founder & Co-CEO

- Former Co-founder & CEO of Achievement First
- Co-founder & Board Chair of Relay GSE



Eric Westendorf
Co-founder & Co-CEO

- Former Founder & CEO of LearnZillion (acquired by Imagine Learning)
- Former principal of an award-winning charter school
- Pahara-Aspen Fellow

Purpose

We are working toward a future where every student experiences accelerated learning and every educator feels effective, supported, and energized by their impact. We aspire to be recognized as one of the most impactful education technology companies as measured by student learning outcomes and teacher satisfaction.

Product

Coursemojo

coursemojo.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
$2.5M ARR

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- A-Street Ventures
- William Berkley
- Thomas Lehrman
- Deborah Quazzo

CUEPILOT AI

Every early educator's teaching assistant

Headquarters
Kolkata, India

Founding Year
2024

People



Ankur Agarwal
Co-founder & CEO

- IIT Kharagpur graduate
- Previously founded Arth Early Learning Spaces



Manav Kedia
Co-founder & CTO

- Ex-Meta (Instagram Ads)
- IIT Kharagpur — Computer Science
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — Computer Vision



Adithya Narayanan
Co-founder & COO

- Public Policy — Harvard Kennedy School
- Ex-IDEO
- Ex-DRK
- Former CEO of Riverside Learning Center

Team Size
15 Full-Time

Purpose

CuePilot exists to give educators their time and professional agency back, so they can focus on what matters most: student learning and human connection. CuePilot's work improves teacher retention, deepens family trust and involvement, and elevates learning quality, enabling preschools to grow revenue, impact and scale.

Product

CuePilot AI

cuepilot.ai

Sector
Early Childhood Education

Product Category
Early Learning

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Capital Raised
$1.8M

Current Revenue
$270K ARR

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Unilazer Ventures
- Titan Capital
- Eximius Ventures

Curipod

Curipod helps teachers create lessons and activities that students love.

Headquarters
Oslo, Norway

Founding Year
2021

People



Jens Aarre Seip
Co-founder & CEO

- Led Curipod from its founding in Norway to global impact with students worldwide
- Built the world's first AI-powered platform for creating fully interactive and engaging lessons

Team Size
20 Full-Time

Purpose

Curipod's mission is to help students become curious, flexible thinkers who learn through discussion, inquiry, and shared understanding. We believe learning thrives when every student is actively involved and supported.

Product

Curipod

curipod.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Curriculum / Content Platform

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Product-Led Growth

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors
- Reach Capital
- Sondo
- Emerson Capital

Diffit

For Teachers

The leading AI for trusted, classroom-ready instructional materials

Headquarters
Berkeley, CA, United States

Founding Year
2023

People

Team Size
20 Full-Time



Vlad Gutkovich
Co-founder & CEO

Built and led GTM for
- Flocabulary (acquired)
- Schoolzilla (acquired)
- Seesaw Learning

Purpose

Our mission is to help teachers do their best work, more sustainably.

Product

Diffit

web.diffit.me

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Curriculum / Content Platform

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
Product Led Growth

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors
- Hyde Park Venture Partners
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Angel Investors (10 exited EdTech CEOs)

eddi

AI platform for grant matching, streamlined applications, budgeting, and analytics

Headquarters
Woodstock, VT, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Jeremy Bhatia
Founder & CEO

Ex-early employee at
- AI-fund startup
- Avenues: The World School

Team Size
8 Full-Time

Purpose

Eddi helps government and grant-funded organizations achieve financial sustainability and ensure every dollar is driving outcomes.

Product

Eddi

eddifi.ai

Sector
K-12, Higher Education

Product Category
Backend Tools / Infrastructure / Administrative Tools

Primary Users
School Leaders / Administrators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
North America

Current Revenue
$800K ARR

Key Investors
- Forum Ventures
- Workshop Ventures
- MGT.US

Currently Raising
No

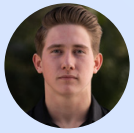
Edexia

AI grading & feedback assistant

Headquarters
Brisbane, Australia

Founding Year
2024

People



Daniel Gibbon
Founder & CEO

- Second-time EdTech founder ($200K ARR at 18)
- TEDx speaker

Team Size
5 Full-Time

Purpose

We exist to fix education—to build a world where students love school and it genuinely prepares them for productive, fulfilling lives.

Product

Edexia

edexia.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$4.1M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- YC
- Paul Graham
- Geoff Ralston
- Aintree
- Founders of Clever & ClassDojo

EnlightenAI

AI for writing assessment that delivers accurate, rubric-aligned scoring and feedback

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Gautam Thapar
Founder & CEO

- Former charter school founder and CEO
- Teaching Lab Studio Fellow
- 2x GSV Cup 50 founder

Team Size
4 Full-Time

Purpose

We exist to make high-quality writing assessment scalable and sustainable for educators. By reducing the burden of grading, we help teachers deliver better feedback and improve student writing outcomes at scale.

Product

EnlightenAI enlightenme.ai

Sector
K-12, Higher Education

Product Category
Assessment & Evaluation

Primary Users
Faculty / Instructors

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
North America

Current Revenue
$800K ARR

Key Investors

- Charter School Growth Fund
- Array Education
- Coherence Fund
- NewSchools Venture Fund

Currently Raising
Yes

Evolytes

Math learning through a game kids love to play based on psychology research

Headquarters
Reykjavik, Iceland

Founding Year
2017

People



Mathieu Skulason
Co-founder & CEO

- BETT Awards 2024 Winner
- Icelandic Startup of the Year (Management) 2025



Iris Eva Gisladottir
Co-founder & COO

- BETT Awards 2024 Winner
- Icelandic Startup of the Year (Management) 2025
- Co-founder & Director at Icelandic Edtech Industry

Team Size
5 Full-Time

Purpose

Evolytes exists to give every child, wherever they grow up and whatever their circumstances, a strong foundation in mathematics and a positive relationship with learning based on interdisciplinary research. This early foundation shapes long-term confidence, academic opportunity, and life outcomes in a world where mathematical thinking is equivalent to a life skill.

Product

Evolytes

evolytes.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Student / Learner Tool

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
~$2M

Current Revenue
$1M ARR

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Pekron
- Omega
- New Business Venture Fund

Goblins

Goblins lets students draw, speak, and get live math help from avatars.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2024

People

Team Size
8 Full-Time



Sawyer Altman
Co-founder & CEO

- Prev. NYC Math Teacher
- Founding Team @ X1 Card (acquired by Robinhood)

Purpose

We're building Goblins to serve 1 billion kids mind-blowing pedagogy every day.

Product

Goblins

goblinsapp.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors
- Gates Foundation
- Kapor Capital
- Night Capital
- Reid Hoffman
- Scott Belsky

Currently Raising
No

hoopooh

AI voice-powered platform that enables teachers to capture classroom observations

Headquarters
Berlin, Germany

Founding Year
2024

People



Amir Matallaoui
Founder & CEO

- PhD in Gamification & MSc in Computer Science
- Experience at Volkswagen and German Telekom
- 3x founder

Team Size
4 Full-Time

Purpose

At hoopooh, our mission is simple: put empathy back into early education. We don't just build software; we build trust, simplicity, and freedom for the people shaping our children's future.

Product

hoopooh hoopooh.com

Sector
Early Childhood Education

Product Category
Early Learning

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$400K

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$45K ARR

Key Investors
- Fraunhofer Institution

Currently Raising
Yes

journify

Evidence-Based AI Assistant for Special Education

Evidence-based AI assistant for K-12 special education

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2025

People



Mara Steiu
Co-founder & CEO

- MBA & MA at Stanford University
- Forbes 30 under 30 Romania
- Prev. Product Manager at Microsoft & Twitter



Sagar Manchanda
Co-founder & CTO

- Prev. Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft, Atlassian
- Indian Institute of Technology

Team Size
5 Full-Time

Purpose

Journify Learning exists to fix the structural inefficiencies in special education that prevent students with disabilities from reaching their full potential. We aim to transform how schools deliver individualized support, such that evidence-based instruction, real-time collaboration, enhanced compliance, and family engagement are the norm rather than the exception.

Product

Journify Learning

journify-learning.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$3.7M

Current Revenue
$167K

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2G

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors

- Reach Capital
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Ulu Ventures

kibeam™
Spark the joy of reading

We help kids develop literacy and learning skills without screens using AI.

Headquarters
Oakland, CA, United States

Founding Year
2020

People



Jim Marggraff
Founder & CEO

Team Size
12 Full-Time

- Inventor of the LeapFrog LeapPad and Livescribe Smartpen
- Founder of Eyefluence, acquired by Google
- Co-founder of StrataCom and Explore Technologies (Atlasphere)
- MIT Top 150 Inventor
- Over 70 Patents
- Ernst & Young
- Entrepreneur of the Year

Purpose

Kibeam's creates the best possible future for kids, their families, and our world through learning, play and connection.

Product

Kibeam Learning

kibeam.com

Sector
Early Childhood Education, K-12

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Capital Raised
$27M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Other

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors
- Learn Capital
- Galaxy Interactive
- Founders

Keep It Dreaming

A safe, creative AI companion designed to strengthen kids' imagination and family connection

Headquarters
Los Altos, CA, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Rob LoCascio
Founder & CEO

Team Size
8 Full-Time

- Serial technology entrepreneur and product visionary
- Founder of LivePerson, where he pioneered live chat on the web and helped define the modern category of conversational AI (grew LivePerson into a global public company with 3K+ employees and $500M+ in annual revenue)
- Founded KID Company & Eternos (now evolving into URAI) based on his own experience as a father
- Committed to building people-first, values-aligned technology that helps people feel heard, connected, and understood at scale

Purpose

Our mission is to build technology that helps children grow more creative, confident, and connected to their families.

Product

Kid Company

kidco.ai

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Business Model
Marketplace

Capital Raised
$2M

Geographic Market
North America

Current Revenue
$10M

Key Investors
- Self-funded

Currently Raising
Yes

MEandMine

A gamified platform helping kids regulate emotions and detect early mental health risks with AI

Headquarters
San Jose, CA, United States

Founding Year
2021

People



Elinor Huang
Founder & CEO

Team Size
20 Full-Time

- Backed by Stanford Medicine
- 2021 Amazon "Female Entrepreneurs to Watch
- ex-Johnson & Johnson
- VP of doc.ai

Purpose

Our children are facing a mental health tsunami. What if there were an Emotional Thermometer—powered by preventive AI and gamification—that could support every child before a crisis hits? Backed by Stanford Medicine, MEandMine is a gamified mental-health platform that helps children regulate emotions, detect early risks, and enable timely intervention—bridging the gap between education, gaming, and healthcare.

Product

MEandMine meandmine.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Student / Learner Tool

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$6.9M

Geographic Market
North America

Current Revenue
$1.12M

Key Investors
- Horizons Ventures
- K5 Global
- Claritas Health
- Amazon

Currently Raising
Yes

OKO

OKO is the OS for teamwork in K-12 – a multi-modal AI facilitator for collaborative learning.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2020

People



Matt Miller
Co-founder & CEO

- ex-CTO & VP of Labs at Amplify and Head of Product at Flatiron School
- Recognized leader in scaling research-backed EdTech from R&D to national adoption



TJ Marston
Co-founder & Chief Product Officer

- Former product leader at Netflix, Epic Books, and XQ Institute
- Expert in EdTech and digital products for kids

Team Size
7 Full-Time

Purpose

OKO exists to empower every student to master the durable collaboration and critical thinking skills required to thrive in the age of AI. We envision a future where technology doesn't just deliver content, but cultivates the human connections and potential needed for career success.

Product

OKO Labs

okolabs.ai

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Capital Raised
$3.8M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2G

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- New York Ventures
- Coherence Fund
- LearnerStudio
- SiliconSchools Fund

Paloma

Paloma accelerates learning by enabling parents to provide curric-aligned instruction daily at home.

Headquarters
Alameda, CA, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Alejandro Gibes de Gac
Founder & CEO

- Immigrant, parent, Harvard grad, McKinsey alum
- Forbes 30 Under 30
- Former elementary school teacher who grew his first startup (pre-Paloma) to $30M in ARR



Charlie Coglianese
CTO

- Parent, Yale grad, and BlackRock alum
- Sold his first startup to Schoolmint before becoming their CTO

Team Size
15 Full-Time

Purpose

Paloma exists to close the opportunity gap by enabling every parent to help their kids thrive.

Product

Paloma Learning

palomalearning.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Other

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B2C

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- GSV Ventures
- Reach Capital
- Kapor Center

Playlab

Create, share, and remix AI-powered education tools

Headquarters
Union City, CA, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Yusuf Ahmad
CEO

- Ex-Teach For America VP Product
- MIT Media Lab
- Scratch
- ALU/ALX founding team



Ian Serlin
CTO

- Ex-Intellipse CTO (acquired by Mutiny in 2022)
- Founded four startups (B2B, two B2C, and one marketplace)

Team Size
24 Full-Time

Purpose

We build software for a global community to create, share, and discover educational AI applications that reflect their needs & values—so that they realize that AI is not magic, but a new design material that they have agency to shape & harness to improve education.

Product

Playlab

playlab.ai

Sector
K-12, Higher Education, Workforce Learning

Product Category
Infrastructure / APIs

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Capital Raised
$12M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Nonprofit / Public Sector

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Schwab Foundation
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- Gates Foundation
- Array Education
- Learner Studio

Polygence

TeachLM is a language model post-trained for education using authentic learning data

Headquarters
Menlo Park, CA, United States

Founding Year
2019

People



Janos Perczel
Co-founder & CEO

- MIT PhD in Quantum Physics



Jin Yun Chow
Co-founder & COO

- Forbes 30 Under 30 Education
- Princeton Valedictorian

Team Size
39 Full-Time

Purpose

Polygence's mission is to democratize access to transformative, high-quality experiential learning, so that students from all backgrounds can discover their intellectual passions, build confidence through real work, and develop the skills to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Product

Polygence

polygence.org

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$9.7M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B2C

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Reach Capital
- Floodgate
- Learn Capital

snorkl

Students explain their thinking and receive instant AI feedback that deepens learning.

Headquarters
San Diego, CA, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Jeff Plourd
Co-founder, CEO & CTO

- 10+ years senior software engineer
- Former 5th grade teacher



Jon Laven
Co-founder, COO

- Former high school math teacher and instructional leader

Team Size
8 Full-Time

Purpose

Snorkl exists to ensure student thinking is seen, celebrated, and supported. By centering how students reason and communicate ideas, we leverage technology to make learning more personalized, meaningful, and human.

Product

Snorkl

snorkl.app

Sector
K-12

Product Category
Assessment & Evaluation

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Reach Capital
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Coherence Fund

socrait

Socrait is a voice-powered AI class companion that saves teachers time and reduces burnout.

Headquarters
Salt Lake City, UT, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Dr. Maria Andersen
Co-founder & CEO

- 30 yrs in education, incl. teaching, online learning design, & EdTech
- Former Co-founder & CEO of Coursetune (sold)



Jason Palmer
Co-founder & President

- 3 decades of starting, investing in, and growing EdTech companies, including SchoolNet, Credly, LearnPlatform, Presence Learning, Graduation Alliance, Mursion, StraighterLine, Nepris, and 20 more

Team Size
6 Full-Time, 3 Part-Time

Purpose

Socrait's mission is to develop intelligent tools that dramatically improve teaching and learning.

Product

Socrait

socrait.com

Sector
K-12

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$2M

Current Revenue
Less than $250K

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Product-Led Growth

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- LearnStart
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Coherence Fund

Higher Education

2026 GSV Cup 50

boodlebox

Trusted AI for higher ed: secure, equitable access with educator control for the AI-native classroom

Headquarters
Colorado Springs, CO, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



France Hoang
Founder & CEO

Team Size
18 Full-Time

- West Point graduate
- Former White House lawyer
- University trustee & Distinguished Visiting Lecturer
- Built companies with $600M+ in combined sales

Purpose

BoodleBox exists to democratize access to transformative AI technology in education, ensuring every student and educator—regardless of institutional resources—can harness AI's potential to amplify human capability rather than replace it. We are building the foundation for a future where AI empowers learners to achieve more, educators to teach more effectively, and institutions to fulfill their mission of developing human potential at scale.

Product

BoodleBox boodlebox.ai

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Higher Education Platform

Primary Users
Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Training Providers)

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$5M | $18M valuation

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$2M ARR

Key Investors
- Dogwood Ventures
- Osage Venture Partners
- JFF Ventures

Currently Raising
No

Cadmus

A secure digital assessment platform that improves student success & experience in higher education

Headquarters
Melbourne, Australia

Founding Year
2015

People



Herk Kailis
Founder & Co-CEO

Team Size
40 Full-Time

- Built Cadmus to reduce stress and workload in higher education through support tools, real-time feedback, and academic resources
- Platform promotes learning, reduces academic misconduct, and strengthens student outcomes
- Used by top universities across Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and the U.S., supporting students in 150+ countries

Purpose

At Cadmus, we believe in uplifting university assessment for everyone. We're committed to removing unnecessary barriers and fostering clear communication and engagement to create intentional and meaningful learning opportunities.

Product

Cadmus

cadmus.io

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Assessment & Evaluation

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors
- SEEK Investments

Currently Raising
No

CareerOS

AI platform automating career guidance, recruiting outreach, and placement workflows.

Headquarters
Barcelona, Spain

Founding Year
2023

People



Marcus Castro
Founder & CEO

Team Size
22 Full-Time

- Winner of a $1M pitch competition
- Sold seven restaurants in 2018

Purpose

CareerOS exists to expand economic mobility by helping more students discover and pursue careers where they can thrive. We aim to make high-quality career support accessible at scale, so learners and workers can turn potential into meaningful, sustainable work.

Product

CareerOS

careeros.com

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Higher Education Platform

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$3M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$1.5M ARR

Key Investors
- Speedinvest
- Masia Ventures
- Dr. Jan Brinckmann
- Tim Schumacher

Currently Raising
No

ESAI

ESAI is the identity intelligence platform aligning students to college and career opportunity.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Julia Dixon
Founder & CEO

- Forbes 30 Under 30 (2025)
- Shark Tank Season 16 alum

Team Size
5 Full-Time

Purpose

ESAI exists to close the gap between human potential and opportunity by making identity-building skills accessible to every student. Our mission is to shift education and work toward systems that recognize context, growth, and story—not just scores and resumes.

Product

ESAI

esai.ai

Sector
K-12, Higher Education, Workforce Learning

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Employees / Learners

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B2C

Capital Raised
$3M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors

- Betaworks
- Precursor
- FullCircle Fund
- Ruthless for Good
- Mark Cuban

Currently Raising
No

extern

Extern is a subscription platform that gives learners real work experience with real companies.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2020

People



Matt Wilkerson
Founder & CEO

- YC-backed, serial founder of Paragon One and AHAlife (SPAC'd & acquired)
- ex-TCV, ex-Morgan Stanley
- MIT degrees in Comp Sci & Engineering + Management

Team Size
20 Full-Time

Purpose

Extern exists to close the growing experience gap that prevents people from launching and advancing their careers. We believe real work (not credentials alone) should be the foundation of learning, opportunity, and economic mobility.

Product

Extern

extern.com

Sector
Higher Education, Workforce Learning

Product Category
Apprenticeships & Work-Based Learning

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2C

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors

- YCombinator
- Launch Fund
- Foundation Capital
- Learn Capital
- University Ventures

Jamworks

AI-powered lifelong learning companion that captures, supports, and personalizes education for all

Headquarters
Surrey, United Kingdom

Founding Year
2020

People



Conner Nudd
Co-founder & CEO

Team Size
28 Full-Time

Purpose

We exist to ensure learning works for every person, at every stage of life. Our mission is to make education inclusive, adaptive, and lifelong. Unlocking human potential from PreK through higher education and beyond.

Product

Jamworks

jamworks.com

Sector
K-12, Higher Education

Product Category
Tutoring / Personalized Learning

Primary Users
Teachers / Educators

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
Multiple User Types

Capital Raised
$2.7M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$2.2M ARR

Key Investors
- HNW's

Currently Raising
Yes

kollegio

Kollegio is a higher-education marketplace for students, schools, and colleges.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Senan Khawaja
Co-founder & CEO

- Counseled 100+ students at Stanford to get into top colleges
- Worked in international development and technology policy at the World Bank
- Forbes 30 under 30



Saeed Naeem
Co-founder & CTO

- Studied CS and applied math at Berkeley with a focus in AI
- A lifelong coder, he's worked at startups, Rimble.io and The Modern Data Company
- Forbes 30 under 30

Team Size
30 Full-Time

Purpose

To revolutionize the future of higher education access by using AI to help more than 200,000 students from all 50 states and 190 countries with every aspect of the college application process, while simultaneously providing colleges with rich, high-quality student profiles that enable them to better target prospective applicants.

Product

Kollegio AI

kollegio.ai

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Higher Education Platform

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$3.55M

Current Revenue
$200K ARR

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
Marketplace

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Tuesday Capital
- Reach Capital
- ECMC Group
- Jobs for the Future

nectir

Nectir provides managed AI infrastructure that seamlessly integrates with educational systems.

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2018

People



Kavitta Ghai
Co-founder & CEO

- SXSW EDU Speaker
- Featured in NBC and Axios



Jordan Long
Co-founder & CTO

- Featured in TechCrunch and Fast Company

Team Size
15 Full-Time

Purpose

Nectir believes that all students and educators should have access to AI tools that are safe, accessible, and focused on learning. We want to set a new standard for prioritizing and investing in tech fluency for all students, especially adult, working, ESL, and neurodivergent learners.

Product

Nectir

nectir.io

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$6.3M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors

- Precursor Ventures
- Long Journey Ventures
- Entrada Ventures

Currently Raising
Yes

Opennote

AI-powered note-taking platform for learning

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2025

People



Rishi Srihari
Co-founder & CEO

- ex. Browserbase, NASA Suits



Abhi Arya
Co-founder & CTO

- ex. NASA, Browserbase



Vedant Vyas
Co-founder & CEO

- ex. FrontFundr

Team Size
3 Full-Time

Purpose

We believe everyone is naturally curious, but most learning tools make it feel like work. We're building a platform that adapts to your curiosity, so exploring new ideas feels effortless.

Product

Opennote

opennote.com

Sector
Higher Education, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Tutoring / Personalized Learning

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$850K

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2C

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Y Combinator
- Acrew Capital
- Afore Capital

Shmoody

A highly engaging student wellness app using AI to support students and deliver insights to schools

Headquarters
Austin, TX, United States

Founding Year
2021

People



Nate Thomas
Co-founder & CEO

- ex-Goldman Sachs
- Backed by Whurley, Charles Thornburgh, and Brett Hurt



Laura Malcolm
Head of Product

- ex-Kaplan
- Codie Award Winning EdTech Product Leader
- Co-founder of Civitas Learning

Team Size
7 Full-Time

Purpose

At Shmoody our mission is to improve the world's wellbeing by helping people move from struggle to action, connection, and hope. We believe mental wellness should be simple, human, and accessible - and that when individuals thrive, institutions and communities thrive with them.

Product

Shmoody

shmoody.com

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Higher Education Platform

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$3M

Current Revenue
$300K ARR (plus $1.5M annual consumer revenue)

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- Live Oak Venture Partners
- Draper Associates
- Sputnik ATX VC
- Goodwater Capital

Solvely.ai

An AI-powered learning companion delivering adaptive, personalized, and joyful education

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Du Zhang
Co-founder & CEO

- Serial entrepreneur and WashU dropout
- Achieved a major exit in the online tutoring space and scaled gaming products to millions of daily users

Team Size
15 Full-Time

Purpose

We exist to inspire every human mind, believing that technology should serve people by elevating their thinking. We aim to transform the global learning experience so that every learner feels supported, confident, and capable.

Product

Solvely.ai

solvely.ai

Sector
Higher Education, Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2C

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Basis Set Ventures
- Emerge Capital
- Canaan Partners

TruLeague®

AI-powered peer engagement platform that helps universities increase enrollment and student success.

Headquarters
Boston, MA, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Lakshya Daga
Founder & CEO

- Babson College MBA
- ex-EY, ex-CEO Avani Group
- Techstars Alum
- TEDx Speaker



Siddharth Jain
Co-founder & CTO

- Indian Institute of Management MBA
- ex-Morgan Stanley, ex-Goldman Sachs
- Techstars Alum
- Published author - 'Snapshots from Heaven'

Team Size
15 Full-Time

Purpose

Building a future where every student decision is informed by real experiences: meaningful connections between prospective students, current students and alumni while helping universities improve enrollment yield, retention and outcomes with AI-powered intelligence.

Product

TruLeague

truleague.com

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Higher Education Platform

Primary Users
Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Training Providers)

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Bootstrapped

Geographic Market
United States

Current Revenue
$400K ARR

Key Investors
- Techstars

Currently Raising
No

uDocz

The AI operating system for higher education, improving student retention and staff productivity

Headquarters
Mexico City, Mexico

Founding Year
2020

People



Carlos Effio
Founder & CEO

- ex-Crehana
- Backed by GSV Ventures, Salkantay and Latitud



Diego Castrillón
Director of Business Development

- Former Deputy CEO at San Ignacio de Loyola university

Team Size
12 Full-Time

Purpose

Higher education drives social mobility, yet millions fall behind. uDocz uses AI to help universities understand, support, and set every student up for success.

Product

uDocz udocz.com

Sector
Higher Education

Product Category
Backend Tools / Infrastructure / Administrative Tools

Primary Users
Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Training Providers)

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B2C

Capital Raised
$2.3M

Geographic Market
Latin America

Current Revenue
$1.2M ARR

Key Investors

- GSV Ventures
- Salkantay VC
- Latitud

Currently Raising
Yes

Workforce & Adult Consumer

2026 GSV Cup 50

Bella

AI operating system and compliance agent for trade schools

Headquarters
Oakland, CA, United States

Founding Year
2025

People



Touré Owen
Founder & CEO

Team Size
6 Full-Time

- ex-Google
- Stanford MBA
- Tsinghua MA
- 3x Founder
- Licensed Barber

Purpose

Usher in a new era of economic mobility and prosperity for the American workforce by making skilled trades so accessible they become more common than a four-year university degree.

Product

Bella AI

itsbella.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Backend Tools / Infrastructure / Administrative Tools

Primary Users
Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Training Providers)

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
United States

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors
- Westbound
- NextPlay Ventures

Currently Raising
No



Boardy

AI superconnector that connects founders with investors, talent and customers

Headquarters
Toronto, Canada

Founding Year
2024

People



Andrew D'Souza
Creator & Mad Scientist

Team Size
30 Full-Time

- Ex-Founder & CEO — Clearco
- Canada Top 40 Under 40

Purpose

Boardy exists to be every founder's first call and first hire, expanding who gets a real shot at building a company by giving underestimated founders the same relationship leverage as the most connected CEOs. Our mission is to use AI to unlock human potential in entrepreneurship – helping more people turn ideas into companies, and companies into engines for meaningful work and wealth.

Product

Boardy

boardy.ai

Sector
Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
Other

Capital Raised
$8M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors
- Creandum

Currently Raising
Yes

BoldVoice

AI-powered voice coaching platform for non-native English speakers

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2021

People



Anada Lakra
Founder & CEO

- ex-McKinsey
- Forbes 30 Under 30
- Backed by Y Combinator
- MBA — Harvard Business School

Team Size
7 Full-Time

Purpose

BoldVoice is built to unlock professional mobility for the world's non-native English speakers so opportunity is determined by ability, not accent.

Product

BoldVoice

boldvoice.com

Sector
Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Employees / Learners

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Capital Raised
$26M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2C

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Matrix, XFund
- Corazon Capital
- Liquid 2
- Y Combinator

Careerflow.ai

AI Career Readiness Solutions

Headquarters
Sunnyvale, CA, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Puneet Kohli
Founder & CEO

- Ex-Apple Senior Engineer
- Award-winning developer
- Backed by Techstars



Nikita Gupta
Co-founder & COO

- Ex-Uber & Amazon Senior Recruiter
- TEDx speaker
- Content creator

Team Size
10 Full-Time

Purpose

Matching talent to opportunity in a post-AI world

Product

Careerflow.ai

careerflow.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning

Product Category
Career Navigation & Placement

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$800K raised | $12M valuation

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$750K ARR

Key Investors

- Techstars
- Ganas
- Oasis
- Angels

Currently Raising
Yes

CREATIUM

Creatium makes it easy to create interactive learning, reshaping how the world learns online.

Headquarters
Cincinnati, OH, United States

Founding Year
2020

People

Team Size
40 Full-Time



Dr. Deepak Sekar
Co-founder & CEO

- Inventor with 280 issued patents
- Former Founder & CEO of Chowbotics (acq. by DoorDash)
- Recognized by Fast Company for leading one of the world's most innovative companies



Maria Walley
Co-founder & VP of Content

- Content leader shaping the future of online learning
- Recognized at ASU+GSV as a Leading Woman in AI in education (2024, 2025)
- Former leader at Verily Magazine

Purpose

Our mission is to help humans upskill for the age of AI. We believe the future of learning is interactive; while most online learning still relies on passive video lectures (sometimes with a quiz tacked on), learning science shows that uniquely human skills like creative problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership are built through practice, feedback, and interaction. Creatium empowers organizations to create interactive learning like this at scale.

Product

Creatium

creatium.com

Sector
K-12, Workforce Learning

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
L&D / Talent Development Leaders

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$4.9M Raised | $18.2M Valuation

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
$2.1M Annualized Revenue

Key Investors
- Geekdom Fund
- Avalanche VC
- Behind Genius
- Hannah Grey

Currently Raising
No

DeweyLearn

DeweyLearn is a multi-modal AI system that gauges learning in online and in person settings.

Headquarters
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Founding Year
2024

People



Luyen Chou
Founder & CEO

- Successful venture-backed edtech entrepreneur
- Former Chief Product Officer & Chief Learning Officer at 2U, Trilogy, Pearson, and Schoolnet



Dirk Liebich
Founder, President & CTO

- AI & machine learning expert
- Corporate technology leader and entrepreneur

Team Size
8 Full-Time

Purpose

DeweyLearn's purpose: AI innovation to unlock human understanding at scale

Product

DeweyLearn deweylearn.com

Sector
Early Childhood Education, K-12, Higher Education, Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Multiple User Types

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$4M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors

- Owl Ventures
- Array Education
- Triumph Higher Education
- Banyan Seed

Currently Raising
Yes

folio

Folio partners with healthcare innovators to build frontier AI powered by medical experts & students.

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Cathy Huang
Founder & CEO

- Ex-Google[x]
- Endeavor & Gates Foundation Researcher



Saleh Kaddoura
CTO

- Ex-Stitch Labs (acq. by Square)
- Ex-Cohesity
- Ex-Alation

Team Size
6 Full-Time

Purpose

Our community is building the future of healthcare - safer, less biased, and more accessible to everyone. We train next gen medical professionals on the foundations of AI, while empowering them to pay off loans and contribute to building frontier AI models in healthcare.

Product

Folio

folioworks.com

Sector
Higher Education, Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Assessment & Evaluation

Primary Users
Developers / Technical Teams

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$4.5M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
Marketplace

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors

- Bloomberg Beta
- Array
- Antler
- Microsoft

GoSprout

The platform powering scalable apprenticeships and work-based learning

Headquarters
Miami, FL, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Carlos Vazquez
Founder & CEO

- Techstars & LearnLaunch alumnus
- Former NYC Teaching Fellow who launched Year Up Miami
- JFF College-to-Apprenticeship cohort leader



Roger Rodriguez
Co-founder & CTO

- Architecting the system of record for modern apprenticeships
- Leads GoSprout's product and engineering

Team Size
6 Full-Time

Purpose

GoSprout exists to ensure that where someone starts in life never limits where they can go. We create pathways from learning to meaningful work so talent can access opportunity, dignity, and economic mobility.

Product

GoSprout

gosprout.app

Sector
K-12, Higher Education, Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Apprenticeships & Work-Based Learning

Primary Users
Employers / Organizations

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Bootstrapped

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$250K

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors

- Techstars
- LearnLaunch
- ECMC Foundation – Education Innovation Ventures (Lead Investor)

Currently Raising
Yes

NeoLens

Fully offline-capable copilots for field service technicians

Headquarters
Stanford, CA, United States

Founding Year
2025

People



James Leo
Founder & CEO



Ostap Korkuna
Co-founder & CTO

Team Size
6 Full-Time

Purpose

NeoLens closes the skills gap for military mechanics and field service technicians in remote locations. Our mission is to enable anyone to operate and maintain complex equipment anywhere in the world.

Product

NEOLENS AI neolens.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Employees / Learners

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Business Model
B2G

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors
- Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Pace AI

AI to advance adult learners onto high-quality career pathways

Headquarters
Palo Alto, CA, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Victoria Pu
Co-founder & CEO

- MIT PhD dropout
- 2020 Harvard Rising Star in AI for Social Impact
- Stanford BA/MS



Vicki Greene
Chief Growth Officer

- Former President & CEO of the GED Testing Service / SVP at Pearson

Team Size
7 Full-Time

Purpose

We founded Pace AI to unlock economic opportunities for the 80% of the world's workforce who are frontline working adult learners, starting with the 130M+ adults in the U.S. who face language and literacy barriers to employment.

Product

Pace AI

paceapp.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
AI Tutor / Coach

Primary Users
Employees / Learners

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Undisclosed

Capital Raised
Undisclosed

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
United States

Key Investors

- Chelsea Clinton's fund
- JFF Ventures
- Co-founder of Chegg
- Paul Allen Institute for AI Research

ROPES

Ropes helps contingent work teams & recruiting firms fight fraud & verify talent.

Headquarters
New York, NY, United States

Founding Year
2023

People



Ken Schumacher
Founder & CEO

- UPenn
- Prev. led AI projects at Retool & Microsoft



Adam Liang
COO

- UPenn
- ex-Mckinsey

Team Size
6 Full-Time

Purpose

Today, hiring is based on proxies of one's ability, such as where someone has worked, or where they went to school. Ropes aims to allow anybody to prove their ability, allowing people to get jobs based on what they can do.

Product

Ropes

ropes.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning

Product Category
Talent Assessment

Primary Users
Recruiters / Hiring Managers

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Capital Raised
$3.1M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors

- GSV Ventures
- Box Group

Scholé

AI-native learning platform that adapts in real time to each learner and their work.

Headquarters
Lausanne, Switzerland &
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2025

People



Vinitra Swamy
Co-founder & CEO

- ex-Microsoft AI
- Youngest M.S. at UC Berkeley EECS grad at 20 yrs old
- Former AI adjunct teaching faculty at UC Berkeley, Harvard, and UW
- "Rising Star in Data Science" for her PhD in CS



Paola Mejia-Domenzain
Co-founder & CTO

- CS PhD at EPFL
- Built 12 educational AI tools that are in the hands of over 200k+ learners in 5 languages
- Over 20 papers on learner-AI interaction at the top conferences

Team Size
5 Full-Time

Purpose

We help people continuously grow in a world where skills, roles, and technology are changing at a pace faster than formal education can keep up, and where corporate training has become a chore instead of an investment. Our mission is to empower every employee at every experience level with every different stack of tools by making learning adaptive and aligned with real work and real scenarios from real lives.

Product

Scholé

schole.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Upskilling / Reskilling

Primary Users
Employees / Learners

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Capital Raised
$2.875M in Venture Funding;
$600K in Grants & Awards

Current Revenue
Pre-Revenue

Currently Raising
No

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
Global

Key Investors
- ACE Ventures
- The House Fund
- Fund F
- Spinoff of both UC Berkeley and EPFL'
- Harvard University (partnered for global AI intensive courses)

Skillmaker.ai

AI SaaS with smart glasses & XR that trains auto techs fast and guides repairs live

Headquarters
Wilmington, NC, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Robin Cowie
Founder & CEO

- Producer of The Blair Witch Project
- ex-Electronic Arts Producer (Madden NFL)
- XR & AI vocational-training pioneer

Team Size
6 Full-Time

Purpose

Skillmaker exists to remove the training bottleneck that keeps capable people and essential industries from thriving. Our mission is to unlock economic mobility and human potential by making job-ready learning faster, more accessible, and grounded in real-world competence.

Product

Skillmaker

skillmaker.ai

Sector
Workforce Learning

Product Category
Simulation / AR / VR / Immersive Learning

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Pre-Seed

Capital Raised
$4M

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Currently Raising
Yes

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Geographic Market
North America

Key Investors

- Strada
- Idea Fund
- Workshop Ventures

songscription

We have created breakthrough AI models that automate music transcription, arrangement, and leveling.

Headquarters
San Francisco, CA, United States

Founding Year
2024

People



Andrew Carlins
Co-founder & CEO

- Stanford MA/MBA Candidate
- Piano and Baritone Saxophone hobbyist

Team Size
7 Full-Time

Purpose

Songscription's mission is to allow any musician to learn any song on any instrument tailored to their level of play. Today, many musicians can't learn the songs they want, often because the right learning materials either don't exist or are too expensive to produce - we are changing that.

Product

Songscription

songscription.ai

Sector
K-12, Higher Education, Adult Consumer Learning

Product Category
Student / Learner Tool

Primary Users
Learners / Students

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2C

Capital Raised
$5M

Geographic Market
Global

Current Revenue
Undisclosed

Key Investors

- Reach Capital
- Emerge Capital
- 10x Founders
- Dent Capital
- Ron 'Bumblefoot' Thal

Currently Raising
No

UpSmith

UpSmith builds AI technology to help trades companies win.

Headquarters
Dallas, TX, United States

Founding Year
2022

People



Wyatt Smith
CEO

Team Size
12 Full-Time

- Former Uber BD leader
- Teach for America
- Sue Lehmann Award Winner

Purpose

UpSmith exists to support builders. Our mission is to ensure trades companies win and tradespeople thrive in their careers.

Product

UpSmith

upsmith.com

Sector
Workforce Learning

Product Category
AI Copilot / Assistant

Primary Users
Employers / Organizations

Predictability and Potential

Funding Stage
Seed

Business Model
B2B SaaS

Capital Raised
$9M

Geographic Market
North America

Current Revenue
$1.5M ARR

Key Investors
- a16z
- Asymmetric
- GSV Ventures
- Hannah Grey

Currently Raising
Yes

About the 2026 GSV Cup Partners

AWS

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is paving the way for innovation and supporting transformative initiatives in education organizations and the technology providers that support them. These organizations face unique challenges to accomplish complex missions with limited resources. AWS allows leaders to serve students and educators more effectively, accelerate innovation and digital transformation, and put more of their time and resources into their core missions. Millions of customers—including the fastest-growing startups, largest enterprises, and leading educational institutions—trust AWS to power their infrastructure, become more agile, and lower costs.

GSV Ventures

GSV Ventures is a multi-stage venture capital firm backing innovation across the $8+ trillion global education and workforce skills sector. The firm partners with transformational founders building category-defining companies that change how the world learns and works, so that ALL people have the opportunity to participate in the future through access to high-quality learning. GSV has made investments in industry leaders, including ClassDojo, Coursera, Degreed, Guild, Handshake, Lead, Mattilda, PhysicsWallah, Photomath, QuillBot, Quizizz, Toddle, MasterClass, and others. Learn more at GSV.Ventures.

Pearson

At Pearson, our purpose is simple: to help people realize the life they imagine through learning. We believe that every learning opportunity is a chance for a personal breakthrough. That's why our c. 18,000 Pearson employees are committed to creating vibrant and enriching learning experiences designed for real-life impact. We are the world's lifelong learning company, serving customers in nearly 200 countries with digital content, assessments, qualifications, and data. For us, learning isn't just what we do. It's who we are. Visit us at plc.pearson.com.

GSV CUP

50

2026

