SURYA CHHABRA +1 708-973-8208 | Email: suryac2@illinois.edu | linkedin.com/in/surya-chhabra

EDUCATION
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Expected May 2027
Bachelor of Science Astronomy + Data Science and Statistics
LAS James Scholar, Secretary and event coordinator Hindu YUVA
Relevant Courses: Data Science Exploration, Statistics Programming Methods, Probability & Statistics, Statistical Modeling

EXPERIENCE

Founders – Illinois Entrepreneurs – Head of Exploration Sept 2024 – Present

● Leading the team with new projects every semester at UIUC’s Premier Entrepreneurship Community
● Built a new accessibility-focused vertical; launched “Exploring Entrepreneurship” series and grew participation ~4× in
one semester

● Brought Antler investors to campus; ran workshops + fireside + networking in one coordinated day.
● Recruited/led a cross-disciplinary team; created an interview/selection pipeline; launched the “Founders Archive”
podcast.

Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC : A branch of UN) Feb 2025 – Present

● Built basic cost and risk estimates for a proposed Venus mission and compared design options.
● Evaluated sustainability, policy context, and private-sector partnerships to de-risk execution. The team’s proposal was
accepted to the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) for 2025.

Chief Scientist, NASA L’SPACE Mission Concept Academy Sept 2024–Dec 2024

● Drove science traceability + instrument selection under ~$325M constraints; owned cross-disciplinary PDR deliverables.
● Delivered risk matrices, hardware justification, and schedule (Gantt) across science/eng/ops.

Undergraduate Instructor (LAS 101 Intern), UIUC Aug 2025–Present

● Lead weekly classes for a 25-student cohort of freshmen at UIUC; mentor on time management, goal setting, and
campus navigation.
● Systematized class operations (rubrics, checklists, templates) to speed grading cycles and keep deliverables on schedule.

Undergraduate Researcher, UIUC Astronomy (Prof. Leslie Looney) May 2025–Present

● Process ALMA data on IRS3B in CASA (calibration checks, multiscale tclean); generate continuum/line FITS and moment
maps.

● Build reproducible imaging pipelines (masks, Briggs/uvtaper choices) and synthesize dust-vs-line morphology for group
reviews.

PROJECTS

Collectiv — AI-Powered Community Shopping (Hackathon Winner) April 2025

● Built pooled-order delivery MVP in <24h; shared-cart + batch routing reduced per-order cost ~60%.
● Prototyped order parsing, batch grouping, and prompt-based product optimization (Lovable + Adelo).

SKILLS
● Product: Customer discovery, program building, event planning, early-stage founder support
● Analysis: Basic cost modeling, data organization, spreadsheet modeling, problem-solving
● Tools: Python (pandas, Jupyter), CASA, Excel / Google Sheets, Figma, Notion