Cole Stites-Clayton

Entrepreneur, Engineer, Data Scientist

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Education

M.S. Environmental Engineering
Stanford University - 2015

B.S. Biology with Honors
Stanford University - 2014

Awards

2020 Forbes 30 Under 30 List - Energy

2020 Echoing Green Climate Talent Finalist

First Place - GridShift Hackathon 2020 (Silicon Valley Clean Energy)

MIT Clean Energy Prize Winner - 2017

Berkeley Cleantech University Prize Winner - 2017

Skills

Leadership Vision & Goal Setting, Resource Planning, Team Management, Coaching and Mentorship, Innovation and Problem Solving

Hardware System Design, Prototyping, PCB Layout, Schematic Capture, Component Selection, Safety and Reliability Testing, Embedded C++, Fusion 360, Eagle

Software Python, Javascript, FastAPI, React, Tailwind, MongoDB, Postgres, Weaviate, OpenAI, ElevenLabs, LangChain, Prompt Engineering, Git/Github

Data Science Excel, SQL, Tableau, Python (np, pd, plt, sk-learn), Machine Learning, Deep Learning (Tensorflow) Statistics, Streamlit

Product UI/UX Prototyping and Design, Feature Scoping, User Story Definition, Agile Software Development, SCRUM Methodology, Asana, Jira

Mission-driven leader dedicated to using engineering, science and innovation to tackle challenges in energy, climate and sustainability. Exceptional problem solver and learner, with experience building and launching new products and growing and leading teams.

Experience

personal projects sabbatical Apr 2023 - Present

Taking a sabbatical after 7+ years at my startup to pursue personal projects. Built a vector memory tool using React, FastAPI, GPT-4 and Weaviate. Completed a Data Science/Machine Learning course with Python, SK-Learn, TensorFlow. Creating an AI agent for personal carbon offset purchasing using React Native, Express, Postgres, Vitest, Stripe - currently alpha testing!

SHYFT Power Solutions
CTO & Co-Founder Sept 2015 - Mar 2023

- Led technology development from founding to the launch of 4 different products in the Nigerian market and $4M+ in funding.
- Designed and developed early product versions, including software applications, firmware programming and hardware pcb design and production. Oversaw product through IEC high voltage safety testing and deployment to customers across hundreds of homes and businesses in Nigeria.
- Led the implementation of data collection systems and the creation of data-rich analytics platforms for our customers, overseeing data integrity and defining custom analytics for advanced solar energy monitoring.
- Built team from 2 founders to 23 employees across multiple continents. Hired for engineering, operations, product, and sales roles, and managed employees across software, hardware, customer support, product management and project deployment.
- Spearheaded partnerships and collaborations with technical partners and vendors. Worked closely with customers to define product direction, understand customer needs, and support sales and BD.
- Recognized with multiple awards for innovation and entrepreneurial achievement.

Engineers Without Borders, SF Professionals Chapter
Volunteer Engineer Jan 2015 - Aug 2015

Volunteered with Fiji Team of the SF EWB chapter to design, plan and construct a new 10,000L reinforced concrete water storage tank in the remote village of Vunikura, Fiji. Traveled to Fiji for 6 weeks to lead local village residents in the construction and commissioning of the new tank.

Stanford University, University of Queensland, WHOI
Student Researcher Jun 2012 - Sept 2014

Carried out multiple independent research projects centering around soil and carbon cycling while a student at Stanford University and through external guest student roles:

- Biology Honors thesis project assessing soil nutrient cycling for ecosystem services in Hawaiian lowland rainforests - presented at Hawaii Ecosystems meeting 2013
- Quantified soil carbon reserves in Australian coastal wetlands and built a Matlab model for expected carbon efflux under various conditions of sea level rise.
- Built a visualization and modeling tool in Matlab to understand carbon and nutrient cycling in the ocean surrounding Hawaii through analysis of sea glider data.