Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/cristian-ponce5 (LinkedIn)

Cristian Ponce

CEO & Co-Founder of Tetsuwan Scientific | Caltech Bioengineering
San Francisco, California, United States

Summary

Caltech '25, Bioengineering. Entrepreneur First W23 alumni. Currently building the next generation of (robotic) scientific talent in Silicon Valley @ Tetsuwan Scientific.

Experience

Tetsuwan Scientific
Chief Executive Officer
November 2023 - Present (10 months)
San Francisco, California, United States

EF W23, 2.6M pre-seed round backed by 2048, Everywhere VC, and Carbon Silicon. Building AI scientists.

Entrepreneur First
Entrepreneur in Residence
October 2023 - January 2024 (4 months)
New York, New York, United States

Voted most likely to change the world. Also voted most likely to be brought back to meet the parents.

I-Corps Hub Northeast Region
Entrepreneurial Lead
June 2023 - September 2023 (4 months)

Completed NSF I-CORPs program with Caltech's Dariao Lab, which provides 50k to researchers to commercialize a technology developed in lab, serving as one of two entrepreneurial leads. Work involved 7 weeks of travel across the country (and 2 weeks of international travel) to conduct market research (>100 interviews), resulting in successful program completion and the discovery of a viable product-market fit. The Dariao Group's participation in I-CORPs was based on a novel algae biocomposite that was discovered to have significant potential for cosmetics packaging.

Mission To Psyche
Psyche Inspired Intern

September 2022 - April 2023 (8 months)

Used photography experience (Published in Sanskrit Magazine '20 and featured in Caltech Art Gallery) to create art pieces for the NASA Psyche mission, bridging the gap between technical aspects of the mission and 16-Psyche and information that could be processed in an easier manner by laypeople.

Caltech
Undergraduate Researcher, Synthetic Biology & Genetic Engineering
November 2021 - January 2023 (1 year 3 months)
Pasadena, California, United States

Working in the Wang Lab learning and applying the REXER/GENESIS protocol, a genetic engineering tool that allows for the creation of fully synthetic genomes through stepwise calls to REXER, a tool based on CRISPR-Cas9 that allows for longer insertion and deletions of DNA.

Carolina Fintech Hub
2 years

Consultant
September 2021 - October 2022 (1 year 2 months)

YTAC Program Director
January 2021 - September 2021 (9 months)
Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

As director of the YTAC program, I manage a team of nine to operate a program that extends across 500 students, 45 cities, and 2 countries to utilize computer science and esports to encourage upward mobility and expose students, especially from underserved communities, to a career in technology. I work hands-on with all of our students but also work with our corporate partners to engineer the best experience for each of our kids. During my time as director, heavy emphasis has been placed on new partnerships, rapid expansion, and strengthening the community of the program.

YTAC Program COO
November 2020 - January 2021 (3 months)
Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

After participating in the program's first cohort, I was offered a position to assist in managing the YTAC program, which seeks to utilize esports and computer science to promote upward mobility and aims to expose students from underserved communities to a possible career in technology. I serve as the main point of contact for our ninety students spread across Charlotte,

Wilmington, and Philadelphia. I am also heavily engaged in the planning and execution of our day-to-day operations and working with our program partners.

The Center for Common Ground
Team Leader, Students for Justice
September 2020 - November 2020 (3 months)

As a team leader of the Students for Justice project, I worked to advance the project's goals of combating voter suppression in historically marginalized communities, such as communities of color. I engaged in voter outreach activities across the south, including in vital battleground states such as Georgia and North Carolina. During my time at SFJ, I also coordinated with other interns to hold a virtual reality voter outreach event, which attracted attendees from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and across the United States.

North Carolina Research Campus
Bioinformatics Research Intern
May 2020 - August 2020 (4 months)
Kannapolis, North Carolina, United States

From May to August 2020, I was a summer research intern at the Cooper Lab, which focuses on researching the sorghum genome. My main project has been to assist in the de novo assembly of 11 lines of sorghum. This has included writing programs to analyze assembly quality and assembly output files to gain a deeper understanding of the issues that impair the lab's ability to accurately assemble all 11 lines.

MindBlazer
Programming Intern
June 2019 - September 2019 (4 months)
Charlotte, North Carolina

This position was a contract-based internship focused on developing a Natural Language Understanding (NLU) engine as an alternative to Microsoft Azure's Language Understanding Intelligent System (LUIS) using Python 3 and the Natural Language Toolkit. The project successfully passed user acceptance testing in September 2019.

———

Education

Caltech
B.S., Biological Engineering · (2021 - 2025)

Charlotte Engineering Early College at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Computer Science, Early College Program · (2018 - 2021)