

Sid Chowdhury

Awards

DECA ICDC - 3rd Place Globally, Financial Services Team Decision Making: Placed 3rd worldwide at International Career Development Conference among 10,000+ competitors from across the United States and internationally, analyzing complex financial case scenarios and presenting strategic recommendations to a panel of industry professionals.

Minnesota State ExCEL Award Recipient: Selected as **1 of only 36** junior students statewide from over **40,000** participants in school-sponsored activities, recognized by the Minnesota State High School League for exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and significant contribution to school and community through extracurricular involvement.

DECA State Awards:

- 3rd Place State - Financial Services Team Decision Making (FTDM)
- Top 8 State - Integrated Marketing Campaign–Event (IMCE)
- Top Finance Test Taker (State)

Track & Field - Top 10 All-Time Freshman 200m (school history)

Business & Leadership

Junior Sharks | Co-founder | 10,11,12 | 5 hours/week, 41 weeks

- Co-founded and scaled a district-backed youth entrepreneurship initiative from a pilot of 20 students to a multi-school program reaching 150+ students across 5 elementary and 1 middle school within three years.
- Built and implemented an 8-workshop curriculum introducing students (grades 3–8) to market research, budgeting, product design, financial planning, and pitch strategy, combining interactive lessons with real-world simulations.
- Directed the annual “Shark Tank” pitch competition, where over 70 student teams presented ventures to local Chamber of Commerce executives, entrepreneurs, and investors, developing public speaking and strategic thinking skills.
- Forged an ongoing partnership with the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce, securing a mentorship network of local professionals and coordinating guest speaker sessions on business development, innovation, and career pathways.

Co-Founder, Young Entrepreneurs Club | Grade 11,12 | 3 hrs/week, 20 weeks/year

- Co-founded the school's first entrepreneurship club in response to the lack of business-focused student organizations, recruiting 70 members and building an engaged community through weekly meetings focused on startup ideation, business model development, and real-world venture execution.
- Designed and facilitated 8 workshops covering entrepreneurial fundamentals, including startup strategy, pitch development, business models, and industry-specific pathways across finance, marketing, engineering, and creative fields
- Conducted one-on-one mentorship conversations with all 70 members to identify individual career interests and entrepreneurial goals, connecting students with tailored resources, including online competitions, business courses, and industry mentors
- Secured 9 internship placements across animation studios, engineering firms, marketing agencies, and finance companies by cold emailing local businesses and negotiating opportunities aligned with students' career aspirations
- Directly supported 3 students in launching their own animation business, providing guidance on business planning, client acquisition, and operational setup while facilitating access to startup resources and mentorship networks.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Professor Avijit Gangopadhyay | Grade 12 | 8 hrs/week, 24 weeks

- Co-authored an academic research paper analyzing the financial risks of rising sea levels on coastal real estate markets in the Middle East, integrating environmental science, economics, and real estate valuation methodologies to assess climate-driven investment vulnerability.
- Conducted a comprehensive literature review of 20+ peer-reviewed research papers on climate impact modeling, coastal erosion economics, and real estate market dynamics to establish a robust theoretical framework and methodological foundation for empirical analysis
- Collected and analyzed satellite-derived oceanographic data, including sea level measurements, tidal wave patterns, and coastal elevation metrics across Middle Eastern coastlines to quantify environmental risk exposure and coastal vulnerability indicators
- Developed proprietary coastal real estate valuation formula applying Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) statistical modeling to quantify correlation between sea level rise projections and real estate price fluctuations, generating predictive visualizations of market vulnerability in high-risk coastal zones.
- Synthesized interdisciplinary research across climate science, financial economics, and geographic information systems to produce a comprehensive data-driven investment risk assessment framework for coastal property markets facing environmental destabilization

Competition Leader & Competitor, DECA | Grades 10-12 | 13 hrs/week, 21 weeks/year

- Achieved 3rd place globally at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Financial Services Team Decision Making, competing against top performers worldwide after qualifying through state competition

- Appointed Competition Leader responsible for preparing 200+ competing members for state and international competitions through structured coaching in role-play strategy, case analysis, and test-taking techniques
- Designed data-driven test preparation strategies by analyzing patterns across DECA exams using computer models and developing estimation frameworks to identify high-yield topics and optimize member study efficiency
- Judged and provided feedback on 25+ individual role-play performances, coaching members on business communication, strategic problem-solving, and professional presentation skills to improve competitive readiness
- Earned multiple state-level recognitions, including 3rd Place Financial Services Team Decision Making (FTDM), Top 8 Integrated Marketing Campaign–Event (IMCE) State, and Top Finance Test Taker through intensive preparation involving 60+ practice exams and daily role-play practice studying financial analysis, marketing strategy, economics, and case study methodology

Finance and Accounting Intern, CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) | Grade 12 | 36 hrs/week, 5 weeks (Summer)

- Selected as 1 of 6 Minnesota interns from 150 regional applicants (4% acceptance rate) and 600+ nationwide candidates for a competitive finance internship at the nation's 8th-largest accounting and consulting firm
- Rotated through Wealth Advisory, Digital/Cybersecurity, Audit, and Tax departments, participating in high net worth client meetings, portfolio analysis, corporate audit procedures, multi-state tax research, and cybersecurity risk assessments
- Led financial modeling and strategic planning for a pro bono consulting case with Black Men Teach nonprofit, building multi-year budget projections and sustainable accounting service recommendations presented to C-suite executives in a nationwide intern competition.
- Developed technical proficiency in Excel modeling (pivot tables, VLOOKUP, scenario analysis), financial software, audit workpaper documentation, and tax code research while delivering client-ready analysis under professional deadlines
- Gained cross-functional business expertise across wealth management, tax strategy, financial assurance, and digital consulting, positioning myself with versatility across multiple finance disciplines

Finance Intern, Bidwell Investments | Grade 12 | 12 hrs/week, 8 weeks

- Managed a live \$10,000 investment portfolio, generating a 27.825% return over 3 weeks through the application of advanced technical analysis strategies, including Bollinger Bands, Fibonacci retracements, covered call options, and derivatives trading
- Learned and applied technical trading methodologies and chart pattern recognition to execute data-driven buy/sell decisions across equity and cryptocurrency markets, demonstrating the ability to absorb complex financial concepts under real market conditions quickly

- Co-authoring an academic research paper examining artificial intelligence applications in financial markets, analyzing machine learning algorithms, algorithmic trading systems, and AI-driven market prediction models for publication
- Gained hands-on experience in portfolio management, risk assessment, options strategies, and market analysis while operating with real capital and accountability for investment performance
- Developed working knowledge of both traditional equity markets and emerging cryptocurrency markets, understanding market mechanics, volatility patterns, and cross-asset trading strategies

Competition Team Member, Wharton Investment Competition | Grade 11, 12 | 6 hrs/week, 17 weeks

- Led development of proprietary investment evaluation model integrating discounted cash flow (DCF) valuation, compound annual growth rate (CAGR), return on invested capital (ROIC), debt-to-equity ratios, and ESG criteria to screen and rank potential portfolio holdings
- Designed a dual-phase portfolio allocation strategy aligned with the client's long-term financial objectives, incorporating inflation-adjusted return targets, cyclical versus defensive stock balancing, and USMV ETF hedging to mitigate downside risk during economic downturns
- Collaborated with a six-member team to conduct scenario analysis and stress testing across multiple market conditions, applying macroeconomic trends and quantitative modeling to deliver data-driven investment recommendations for a real-world client case
- Synthesized fundamental analysis, technical indicators, and risk management frameworks to construct a balanced portfolio optimizing for growth potential while managing volatility and systematic risk exposure
- Demonstrated advanced financial modeling capabilities and strategic asset allocation skills typically applied in institutional investment management and wealth advisory contexts

Wealth Management Intern, FinMark Capital | Summer after Grade 10 | 35 hrs/week, 5 weeks

- Joined a DFSA-regulated wealth management firm serving high-net-worth clients in Dubai, contributing to client advisory operations, portfolio management, and comprehensive financial planning across international markets
- Developed customized investment proposals using asset allocation frameworks incorporating equities, fixed income, and alternative investments, balancing risk tolerance, liquidity requirements, and client-specific financial objectives
- Assisted in client consultations by preparing detailed financial reports, conducting client needs assessments, and building Excel-based financial models for retirement planning, education funding, and multi-generational legacy strategies.

- Supported investment due diligence processes by analyzing fund performance metrics, evaluating prospective investment products, and monitoring compliance with Dubai Financial Services Authority regulatory standards and firm risk-management protocols
- Gained exposure to international wealth management practices, cross-border investment strategies, and high-touch client service standards while working with ultra-high net worth clientele in a Middle Eastern financial hub

Summer Business Program, Columbia University | Grade 11 | 40 hours/week, 3 weeks

- Completed competitive summer business program at Columbia University, exploring core financial principles, economic analysis, and real-world business applications through an intensive curriculum designed for high-achieving high school students
- Collaborated on 5 comprehensive case studies analyzing corporate strategy, financial decision-making, and market dynamics across various industries, applying theoretical frameworks to solve complex business challenges
- Participated in numerous team-based projects requiring financial modeling, strategic analysis, and presentation of business recommendations to program instructors and peer cohorts
- Gained exposure to undergraduate-level business curriculum, including microeconomics, financial accounting principles, investment analysis, and organizational management, in an Ivy League academic environment
- Developed analytical and collaborative skills working alongside students from across the country in a rigorous academic setting, strengthening the foundation for college-level business coursework

Minnesota Business Venture Program | Grade 10 | 40 hrs/week, 1 week

- Participated in a statewide entrepreneurship program where high school teams develop comprehensive business plans and pitch to a panel of entrepreneurs, investors, and business professionals
- Led market research and competitive analysis for eco-friendly gym concept, surveying target demographics, analyzing industry trends, and identifying market gaps to validate business opportunity
- Directed product development strategy, defining service offerings, pricing models, membership structures, and sustainability features that differentiated the venture from traditional fitness centers
- Collaborated with the team to build a complete business plan, including an executive summary, financial projections, marketing strategy, and operational roadmap for a sustainable fitness venture
- Presented business pitch to judges and program participants, demonstrating public speaking skills and ability to articulate value proposition, competitive advantages, and growth potential

Service

Senior Class Representative, Student Council | Grade 12 | 2 hrs/week, 40 weeks/year

- Elected as sole senior class representative from class of 750 students to serve on 6-member student council, advocating for senior interests and leading school-wide event planning and execution
- Co-led homecoming pep fest committee, coordinating logistics, student performances, athlete recognitions, and school spirit activities for the event attended by the entire student body of 3,000+ students
- Organized and executed multiple school-wide events, including meet-the-teachers night, fundraisers for school programs, and spirit events, collaborating with administration, teachers, and student volunteers to ensure successful implementation
- Managed multiple fundraising initiatives throughout the year to support class activities, school programs, and community partnerships, working with team members to maximize student participation and revenue generation
- Served as liaison between senior class and school administration, gathering student feedback, addressing concerns, and representing senior perspectives in council decisions affecting school policies and events

Finance & Operations Lead, "Own Your October" Social Awareness Campaign | Grade 11 | 6 hrs/week, 4 weeks

- Co-created and launched a school-wide social awareness campaign from scratch to build a tighter-knit community and encourage student engagement following a period of social disconnection, partnering with the student council and the school administration
- Led finance and operations for a month-long initiative, managing budget allocation, prize procurement, participant tracking systems, and logistical coordination to ensure smooth campaign execution across the 3,000+ student body
- Designed an interactive bingo card challenge featuring social activities, including joining clubs, attending athletic events, meeting new students, participating in volunteer opportunities, and engaging in study groups, to promote cross-grade connections
- Engaged 150 students to complete full bingo cards through a strategic marketing campaign, including posters, announcements, and direct outreach, incentivizing participation with prizes while fostering community-building across diverse student groups
- Collaborated with principal, deans, and student council leadership to align campaign goals with school culture initiatives and secure administrative support for implementation and prize distribution

Teaching Assistant, Algebra II | Grade 12 | 4 hrs/week, 8 weeks

- Selected by the teacher to serve as a teaching assistant for the Algebra II class of 30 students based on strong mathematical aptitude and ability to explain complex concepts clearly
- Provided individualized academic support to students during class, breaking down challenging topics including polynomials, logarithms, trigonometry, and quadratic functions using multiple teaching methods tailored to different learning styles
- Graded 60+ assignments weekly, including problem sets, quizzes, and tests, providing detailed feedback on student work to help identify common misconceptions and areas needing additional support

Volunteer Youth Fitness Coach | Grades 9-12 | 3 hrs/week, 52 weeks/year

- Founded and led a year-round volunteer fitness program for 9 neighborhood youth in response to identified community need for accessible fitness opportunities, providing free strength training and cardiovascular conditioning in a home gym facility.
- Designed and facilitated 90-minute training sessions twice weekly, creating age-appropriate workout programs incorporating weightlifting fundamentals, cardio exercises, proper form instruction, and progressive overload principles to ensure safe and effective training
- Leveraged personal athletic experience from varsity football and track to teach functional fitness skills, building participants' physical strength, cardiovascular endurance, and foundational movement patterns over a sustained four-year commitment
- Fostered positive body image and self-confidence among participants by creating a supportive, non-judgmental training environment that celebrated individual progress, effort, and personal growth rather than comparison or competition. Built a tight-knit community among participants through consistent programming and mentorship, helping youth develop discipline, goal-setting skills, and healthy lifestyle habits while demonstrating measurable improvements in strength and endurance metrics

Athletics

Varsity Football & 7v7 Travel Team Athlete | Grades 9-12 | 15+ hrs/week, year-round

- 3-year varsity football athlete at Eden Prairie High School, one of Minnesota's most competitive athletic programs, while maintaining a rigorous academic course load and leadership roles in multiple business organizations
- Selected through competitive tryouts for elite 7-on-7 travel team, competing in tournaments across the country, and earning multiple championship titles against top regional and national competition
- Dedicated 15+ hours weekly to a year-round training regimen, including film study, strength and conditioning, position-specific skill development, and team practices, demonstrating commitment to continuous improvement in a demanding team sport

- Developed proficiency in football from the ground up after limited exposure to the sport before middle school, showcasing the ability to rapidly learn complex schemes, technical skills, and game strategy through disciplined practice and coaching
- Built an extensive network with players, coaches, and athletes from schools across the region through travel competition, developing relationship-building skills, and the ability to perform under high-pressure game situations

Varsity Track and Field Athlete | Grades 9-12 | 10 hrs/week, 16 weeks

- 4-year varsity track athlete competing in sprint events (100m, 200m, 4x100m, 4x200m) at regional and state levels, demonstrating consistency and dedication across all four years of high school
- Ranked top 10 all-time freshman 200-meter sprinter in school history, establishing exceptional athletic performance early in high school career and maintaining competitive excellence throughout
- Placed 5th in 4x200m relay at Boys' Section Finals (2024), competing against top programs across the region in a high-stakes championship environment
- Committed to year-round training, including off-season strength and conditioning, sprint mechanics development, and technique refinement to maintain a competitive edge and continuous performance improvement
- Balanced demands of two varsity sports (football and track) year-round while maintaining academic excellence and leadership in business activities, demonstrating exceptional time management and work ethic

Freelance Photographer | Grades 9-12 | 1 hour/week, 52 weeks

- Self-taught photographer providing free engagement photography services for 4 couples and sports event coverage for 15+ football and basketball games, developing technical and creative skills while building community connections through visual storytelling
- Completed formal photography course to strengthen foundational knowledge in composition, lighting, camera settings, and post-production workflow, applying learned techniques to real-world client projects
- Mastered Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop for professional-grade photo editing, including color correction, exposure adjustment, retouching, and creative enhancement to deliver polished final products for clients and social media
- Provided pro bono photography services to underprivileged youth and families, ensuring access to professional-quality engagement photos and sporting event memories regardless of financial constraints, demonstrating commitment to community service through creative work
- Built and maintained an Instagram portfolio showcasing work across portrait, event, and action sports photography, developing personal brand and visual storytelling capabilities while capturing meaningful moments for clients and athletes

