

Anika Yadav

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EDUCATION

Stanford University

B.S. in Management Science and Engineering

Stanford, CA

Expected 2028

Affiliations: Hoover Institution National Security Affairs Fellows, Gordian Knot Center for National Security Innovation

WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Mirkwood, Gordian Knot Center

UGV Policy Researcher

Stanford, CA

Sept 2025 – Present

- Analyzing DoD testing, evaluation, verification, validation (TEVV) gaps for safe, rapid fielding of autonomous weapons
- Aligning regulatory strategy with engineering team's technical implementation through "AI Lethality Readiness Level"
- Conducting stakeholder interviews (operators, engineers, policy leads) to design actionable policy for safe fielding

Air University's Innovation Accelerator (AUIX)

Strategy and Innovation Intern

Montgomery, AL

Jun 2025 – Present

- Built prototype of a synthetic multi-domain environment and wargame with AWS and Omni Federal under CRADA
- Conducted 40+ stakeholder interviews across Maxwell AFB, Air University, AFWERX, and AFIT on PME modernization
- Researched AI adoption in PME and dual-use policies, leading 55-participant deliberative forum across the Air Force
- Briefed senior Air Force leadership, including four-star generals, on commercial defense capabilities and PME strategy

Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab

AI Public Opinion Researcher

Stanford, CA

Jan 2025 – Jun 2025

- Co-authored three research papers on first-time voter behavior, AI in PME, and geopolitical attitudes in Saudi Arabia
- Drafted research briefs and policy reports, synthesizing data into insights for policymakers and academic audiences
- Helped organize and facilitate forums on defense innovation, emerging tech, global policy (Meta AI Policy Forum)

LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

Pursuit of Innovation (Pi515)

Board of Advisor

Des Moines, IA

Mar 2023 – Present

- Designing AI in Education toolkit with strategic legislative plan, industry-government partners, workforce upskilling
- Co-wrote grants and awarded \$200,000 from Iowa's Governor and the State's Economics Development Authority
- Spearheaded Girls Entrepreneurship Incubator, mentoring 60 young women in starting small businesses over 3 years

Business Association of Stanford Entrepreneurial Students (BASES)

Director of \$100k Startup Challenge

Stanford, CA

May 2025 – Present

- Recruiting VC partners, managing partners, and industry leaders to judge pitches, mentor teams, and speak at events
- Directing program logistics for 30+ ventures, managing venue selection, scheduling, and workshop programming
- Reviewing and evaluating 100+ startup applications, sourcing high-potential ventures and scouting for \$100k Challenge

TreeHacks

Sponsorship Organizer

Stanford, CA

Oct 2024 – Jun 2025

- Raised \$600k+ from 49 sponsors including NVIDIA, Google, and OpenAI for the U.S.'s largest collegiate hackathon
- Managed contracts and stakeholder relationships with VC firms, startups, and tech companies for 1,600+ hackers

Stanford Marketing Group

Senior Consultant

Stanford, CA

Oct 2024 – Jun 2025

- Advised early-stage biotech startup on market positioning and product strategy via competitive and customer analysis
- Evaluated Hanwha Group non-bank lender acquisitions, assessing UX, product flexibility, regulatory fit, borrower trust

HONORS & SKILLS

- **Honors:** United States Senate Youth Program Delegate (2024), Distinguished Young Woman of Iowa (2024)
- **Languages:** English and Hindi - Native/Bilingual Proficiency, German - Limited/Elementary Proficiency
- **Technicals:** Data Analysis (Excel, Python, PowerBI), Lightweight Automation, Systems Thinking, Process Optimization
- **Operational:** Stakeholder Management, Project Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Gov't & DoD Familiarity