RANIA ZURI

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EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN MANAGEMENT SCIENCE & ENGINEERING, MINOR IN EDUCATION STUDIES, EXPECTED 2028

Stanford University, Stanford, California
GPA: 4.0
Clubs: Selected for BASES Frosh Battalion and ASES Bootcamp, Stanford's highly selective entrepreneurship clubs with less than 5% acceptance rate, and The TAMID Group, which provides consulting services to Israeli start-up companies, on the Stanford Chabad Board (social media)

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, 2023

Morgantown High School, Morgantown, West Virginia
GPA: 4.0; Class Rank: 1/500
Relevant Test Scores: SAT 1590 (800 Math, 790 English), 99th percentile PSAT
Relevant Coursework (21 AP classes): AP English Literature, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP US History, AP European History, AP US Government, AP Comparative Government, AP Statistics, AP Environmental Science, AP Calculus BC, Multivariable Calculus
Activities: UNICEF Club President, Student Council

EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITIES, & ENGAGEMENTS

THE LITEArary SOCIETY, INC., 2019 TO PRESENT
FOUNDER AND CEO
- Founded the world's largest entirely youth-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of ending book deserts for disadvantaged preschool children.
- Donated more than $1M worth of brand-new books to over 120,000 children in Head Start programs across all 50 states, as well as similar international programs.
- Featured in numerous national media outlets, with personal appearances on Good Morning America, CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell, The Today Show, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, The Kelly Clarkson Show (2x), National Public Radio (NPR All Things Considered, NPR Inside Appalachia and 1A), and features in Forbes (4x), Teen Vogue(2x), NASDAQ Faces of Entrepreneurship, People magazine, and many others.
- Established and cultivated close partnerships with Barnes and Noble, Scholastic, Starbucks, L'Oreal Paris USA, Hershey Company, and Pilot Pens to obtain funding and support for the organization and its mission.
- Partnered closely and collaboratively with Eric Litwin, author of "Pete the Cat", and Laura Numeroff, author of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie", to broaden the reach and growth of the organization.

U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 2025 TO AUGUST 2025
INTERN
- Intern at the U.S. Senate for Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 2023 TO PRESENT
GLOBAL GOALS AMBASSADOR, AMBASSADOR FOR UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS #4 and #17
- Appointed as UNA-USA Global Goals Ambassador for SDG #17 (Partnerships for the Goals) for 2024-25 and previously served as UNA-USA Global Goals Ambassador for SDG #4 (Quality Education)
- Developed and raised awareness for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (#4 and #17) as part of a yearlong fellowship
- Featured speaker in numerous UN-UNA Global Goals Ambassador podcasts and was introduced at the UN Global Engagement Summit (GES2024) at the UN Headquarters in New York, NY

US SENATE RESOLUTION AUTHOR, WASHINGTON, DC, 2023 TO PRESENT
YOUNGEST AUTHOR OF A US SENATE RESOLUTION IN HISTORY
- Authored a bipartisan US Senate Resolution for the nation's very first "National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day" to raise awareness about reading scores, the lack of access to books and the impacts on early childhood literacy development.
- Achieved success with the bi-partisan Resolution passing on the US Senate floor with unanimous consent in 2023 and 2024, impacting approximately 1M children in Head Start programs and affecting 15M primary school children in the US.
- Acquired support from the National Head Start Association, Scholastic, and Barnes & Noble
- Featured in Forbes, CBS National News, Teen Vogue, and other publications for the Resolution.

VARIOUS ENGAGEMENTS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, 2022 TO PRESENT
PUBLIC SPEAKER
- Authored and delivered an engaging TEDx Talk in April 2022 on eliminating book deserts and the importance of access to literacy, amassing more than 44k views across the TED website and YouTube.
- Featured as a Speaker/Guest on NPR 1A and NPR Inside Appalachia in 2023 and in NowThis in December 2023 regarding literacy rates and book deserts.
- Appeared as a keynote speaker across various events and engagements, including the Key Club International Convention in July 2024, the WV Head Start Conference in October 2022, and the Pennsylvania Key Club Annual Conference in March 2025, as well as delivering closing remarks at the West Virginia University Entrepreneurship Conference in April 2023.

VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, 2020 TO PRESENT
WRITER AND AUTHOR
- Leveraged extensive expertise and skills to write and author publications across different fields, including journalism, historical research, and children's fiction.
- Penned a number of op-eds featured in different publications, including two op-eds for Teen Vogue on book deserts and childhood literacy and an op-ed for NBC News Online on education.
- Authored and illustrated an Appalachian children's picture book series that is sold in-store by Barnes & Noble (WV, KY, TN), select US National Park gift shops, and Amazon, with 100% of all profits going toward the purchase of new books for children in Head Start programs.
- Wrote the poems "An Appalachian Winter" and "Mountaintop Removal" that were published in the Northern Appalachian Review and Appalachian Journal respectively.

SMITHSONIAN OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023
INTERN
- Performed the evaluation, assessment, and editing of the Smithsonian Edx Course with a focus on improving content through collaboration with colleagues.
- Conducted the promotion and marketing of content from the Smithsonian Lab with an emphasis on increasing audience engagement.
- Assisted in the creation and development of newsletters for the organization and administered the official Smithsonian Education account on Twitter for numerous tweets.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Forbes 30 under 30 2024 – Youngest CEO on the entire Forbes 30 under 30 list
- L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth 2024 (L'Oreal's signature philanthropic initiative which honors 10 nonprofit female leaders each year)
- Honored at the White House as a "Girl Leading Change" in celebration of International Day of the Girl in 2023
- Named by Forbes as One of "Six Teens Making the World a Better Place "in 2022
- Chosen by National Head Start Association to be one of 60 voices for 60 years of Head Start for its Diamond Jubilee anniversary presentation in May 2025

- U.S. Presidential Scholar 2023 (161 chosen from 3.7 million graduating seniors in the US)
- Coca-Cola Scholar 2023 (150 chosen from 91,000 applicants)
- Cameron Impact Scholar 2024 (15 chosen from 3,000 finalists for 4-year, merit-based full tuition college scholarship)
- Diana Award Recipient 2023 (one of 3 recipients out of 189 worldwide to be personally introduced by Prince Harry)
- Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes Winner (2023)
- 3 Congressional Recognitions (awarded by US Congresswoman Carol Miller, US Congressman McKinley and US Congressman Mooney) for work with West Virginia Head Start
- Distinguished Mountaineer 2022 (awarded to only 1-2 West Virginians per year by Governor Justice)
- George H.W. Bush Point of Light Award (2021)
- Finalist in the West Virginia State Birthday Cake Contest (selected by Governor Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice)
- West Virginia Kids Count *Education Champion of Children* Award (2023)
- NCWVCAA Community Spirit Award 2023
- 2 Scholastic National Art Award Gold Keys (2022) and 4 Scholastic National Art Award Silver Keys
- National AP Scholar with Distinction (2022 and 2021) and National AP Scholar with Honor (2020)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: French (proficient), Farsi (proficient), Avestan (basic)

Technical Proficiencies: Java, GIS software, Wolfram Mathematica, Wolfram Alpha, Microsoft Office 365

Interests: travel, tennis, opera, and community service