



Energizing the leaders of tomorrow



Spring 2024





**Each year, a group of high school students actively participate in an energy and finance-focused professional development program.**

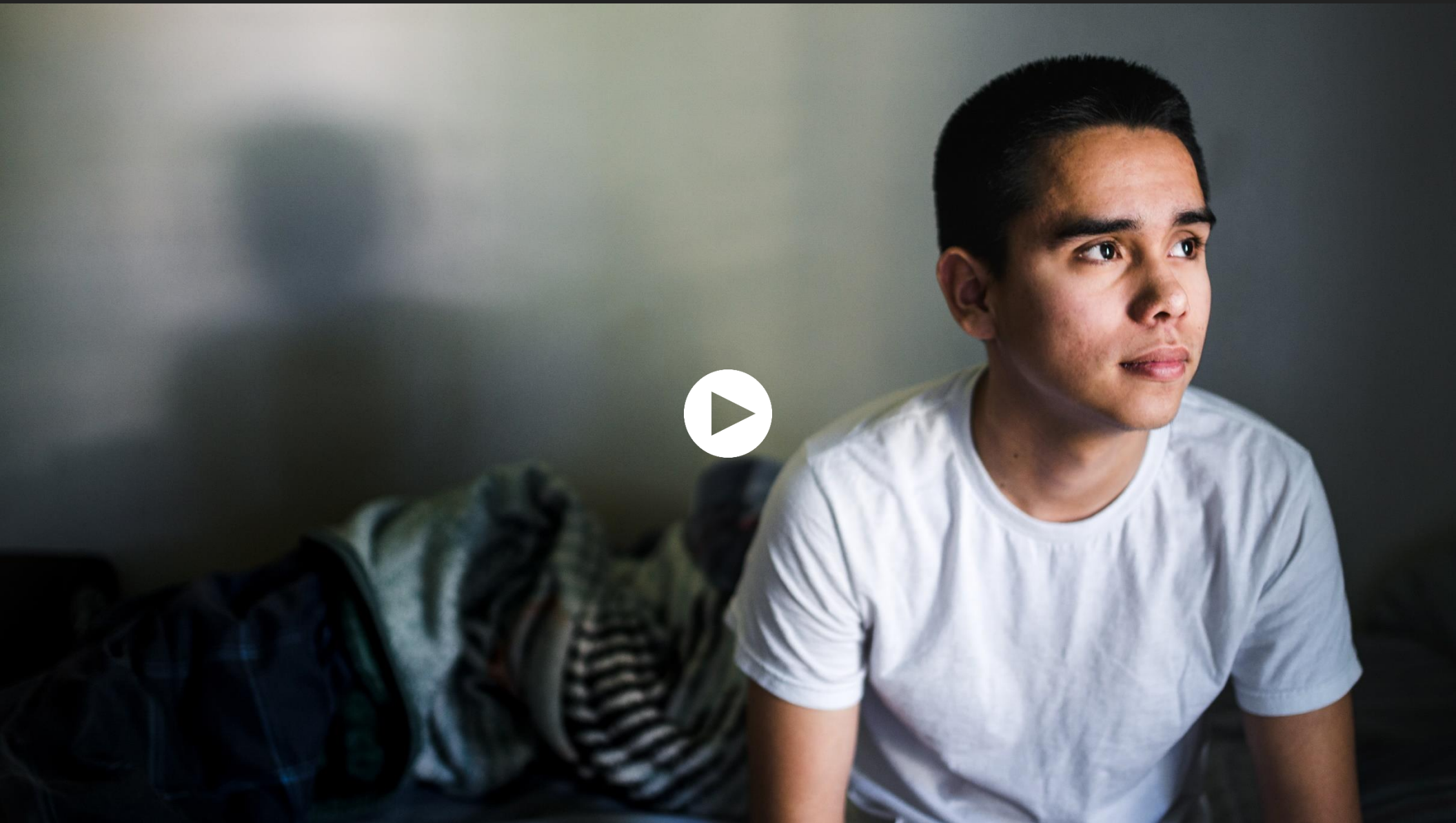
Students from across Houston come together to learn in a competitive and collaborative environment that pushes students to create their own success.

The program creates a holistic ecosystem for success through curriculum, college preparation, mentorship, scholarships, guest speakers, and field trips.

**Students go on to become leaders at their high schools and universities.**



ATLAS SCHOLARS | 1 minute



# Our story

We created a transformative development program

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**Founded in 2013 by Craig Taylor and Tejpal Singh of Iapetus Holdings**

*Iapetus Holdings is a privately-held multi-million dollar portfolio of energy services businesses and alternative investments across the United States*

## Problem

- a) Lack of enough competitive, performance-based environments providing real-world experience to students before they enter the workforce
- b) Disparity in opportunities and exposure between students coming from different backgrounds and schools

## Solution

- a) Create a competitive, professional environment where students are provided the tools to work for their success
- b) Operate in a problem-based learning structure with direct access, exposure to, and mentorship from industry leaders from a variety of backgrounds and sectors

**Mission:** Provide motivated students with mentorship, scholarship, and exposure to business and professionalism in a competitive, performance-based environment

# Program overview

We created a transformative development program

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Three summer internship programs. Year-round mentorship. Business curriculum. Field trips. Guest speakers. College preparation. Scholarships. **Lifelong network.**



## Long-term perspective

*Personal and professional development extends beyond formal three-year program*



## Tight-knit, diverse group with focus on personalized mentorship

*Diverse class of ten students each year from a wide range of backgrounds in Houston*



## Performance-based, competitive, high-pressure environment

*College scholarships are awarded based on personal performance and growth*



## Industry leaders from top companies directly shaping the program

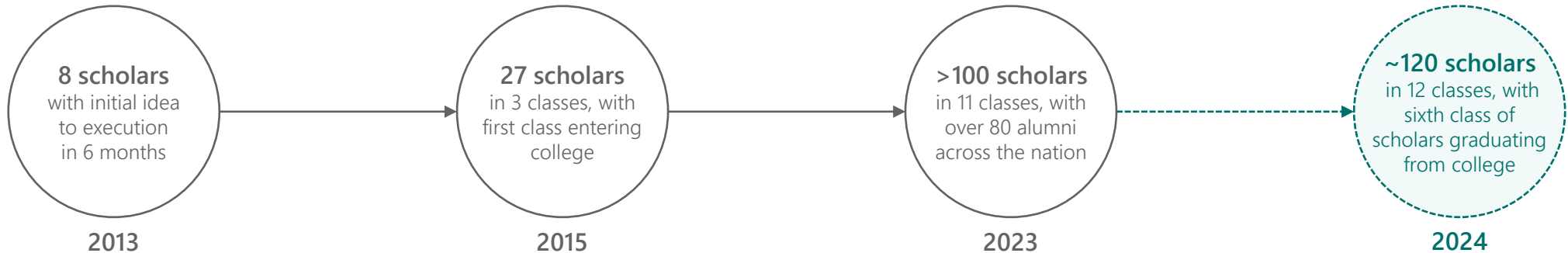
*Program partners have included Goldman Sachs, EDF Energy, Vitol, and Calpine*



# History and accomplishments

## Rapidly-expanding brand and network

2024 will make the **12<sup>th</sup> year** of the program, the completion of the **10<sup>th</sup> cycle** of the program from student acceptance to high school graduation, and the **6<sup>th</sup> cycle** of the program from student acceptance to college graduation



### Program recognition and financial accomplishments



Atlas Scholars was featured on **KPRC-2** in 2018, 2021, and 2022

**\$600,000+**  
in scholarships  
awarded since  
inception

**\$390,000**  
raised at 2022  
Sunday for Scholars  
fundraiser

### Alumni network



Yale



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



Carnegie  
Mellon  
University



# Program leadership and partners

Leaders from energy, finance, and education fields



## **CRAIG TAYLOR** | Co-founder

- President and CEO of Iapetus Holdings
- Prior experience in commodities trading, bank finance and M&A law, and the U.S. Navy
- Dual Executive MBA from Columbia Business School and London Business School
- Law degree from Fordham University



## **TEJPAL SINGH** | Co-founder

- Chief Operating Officer of Iapetus Holdings
- Prior experience in commodities trading (Goldman Sachs and Mercuria) and consulting (Deloitte)
- Studied Electrical Engineering and Management at McMaster University in Toronto, Canada



## **JOSHUA SILBERMAN** | Program Coordinator

- Program Coordinator of Atlas Scholars
- Former teacher and professor at an Early College High School in HISD
- Prior experience in various educational roles in the Houston and Austin areas
- M.Ed in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin

## Program partners



## Board members

### **Greg Agran**

Managing Partner & CIO — Sugar Magnolia Ventures

### **MaryAnne Breilinsky**

President – Alpha Generation

### **Geoff Berg**

Founding Partner – Berg Plummer Johnson & Raval, LLP

### **Jack Miglioretti II**

Power Trader and Head of ERCOT – Trafigura

### **Craig Taylor**

President and CEO – Iapetus Holdings

### **Tejpal Singh**

Chief Operating Officer – Iapetus Holdings

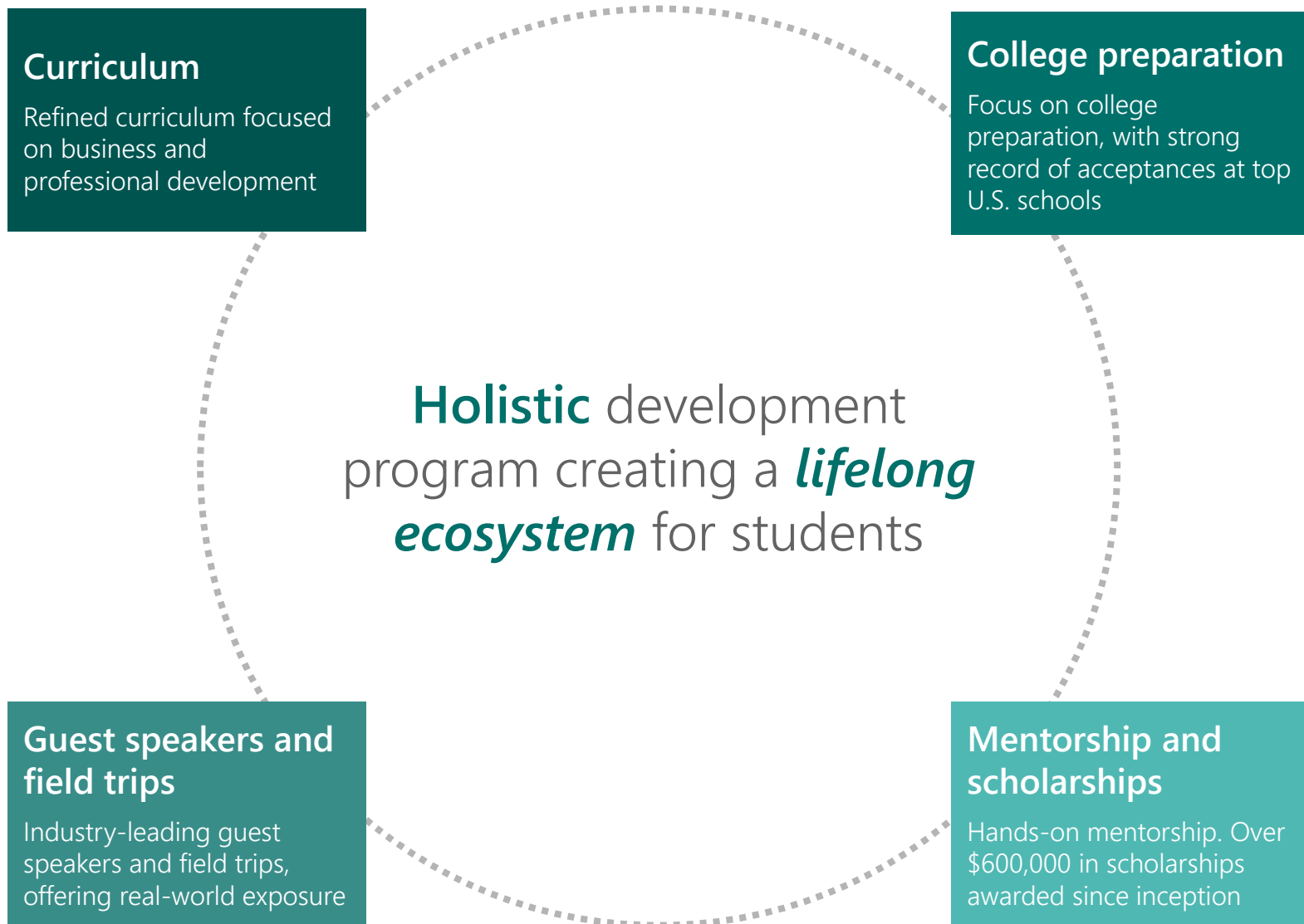
### **Jay Mondkar**

Climate Investor – General Atlantic | Atlas Scholar, 2015

# Program components

Holistic focus on personal and professional development

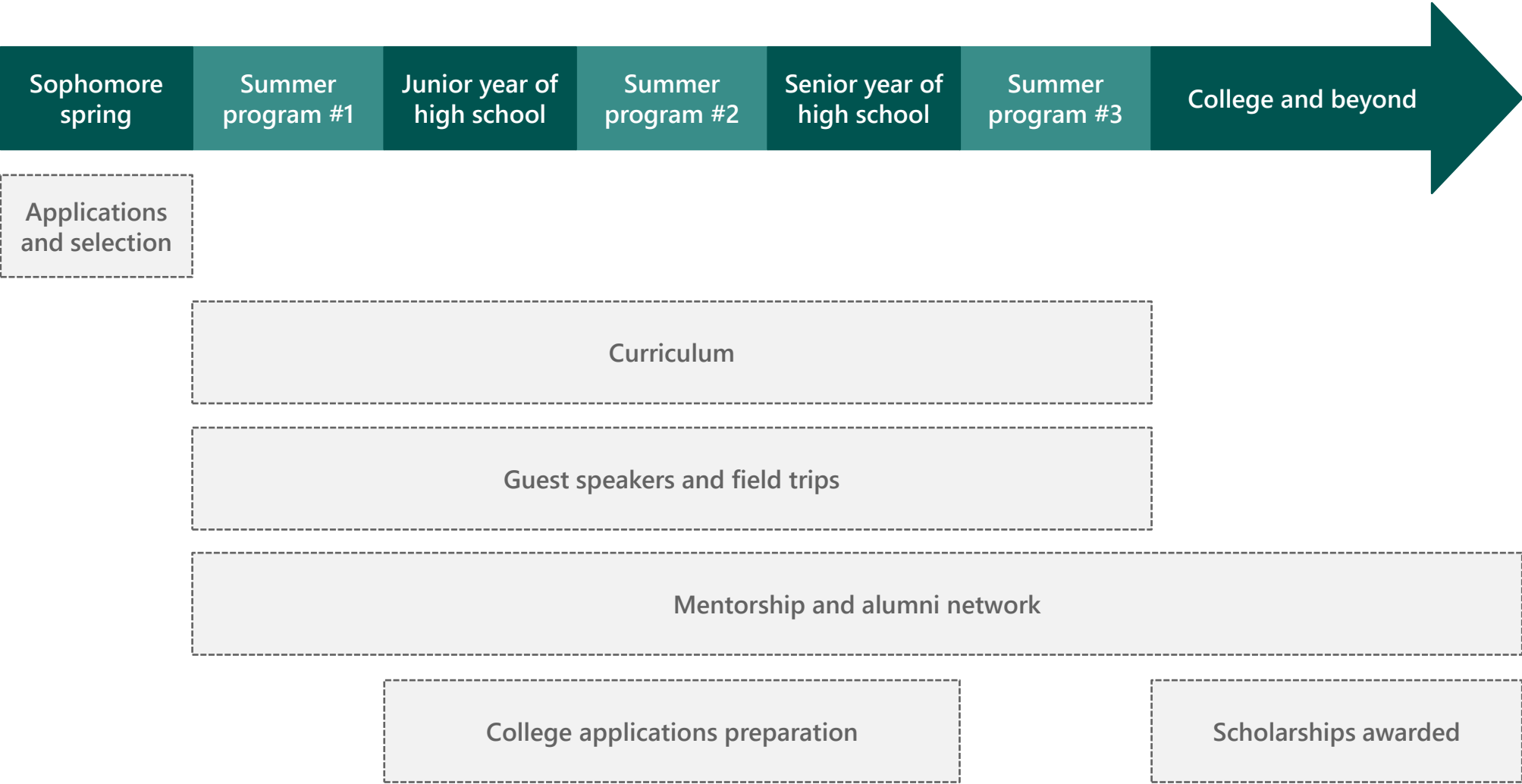
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# Program timeline

Three summer programs with a lifelong network lasting far beyond graduation



# Program components

Holistic focus on personal and professional development

## Curriculum

- Curriculum covers finance, economics, business, energy, foreign affairs, and personal / professional development
- Past projects have covered:
  - U.K. natural gas market and Brexit
  - Evolution and future of globalization
  - Energy transition and climate change
  - Foreign affairs and energy geopolitics
  - Simulated stock market investment challenge



## College preparation

- Focus of the second summer of the program is college preparation, along with continued exposure to business environments and curriculum
- Scholars conduct analysis of potential schools and present a list of schools to which they will be applying
- Extensive college application preparation also includes essay-writing, test preparation, resume creation, college visits, and personalized mentorship from older scholars and alumni who have gone through the process



# Program components (cont'd)

Holistic focus on personal and professional development

## Guest speakers and field trips

- Leading speakers from a wide range of companies and entities including Goldman Sachs, NRG, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, EDF, Vitol, JP Morgan, ERCOT, and The City of Houston
- Field trips have included Vitol trading floor, EDF trading floor, NRG Cedar Bayou Powerplant, ERCOT control room, CyrusOne data center, City of Houston Greentech Tour, Houston Mayor's Office, Bank of America Merrill Lynch trading floor, Webberville Solar Farm, Rice University, and UT Austin



## Mentorship and scholarships

- Personal and professional development driven through personalized and long-term mentorship from program leadership, older Scholars, alumni network, and industry leaders from Iapetus Holdings and other firms
- College scholarships awarded upon completion of three-summer program. Scholarship allocation is based on individual performance and improvement over time through regular evaluations with program leadership
- \$600,000+ in scholarships awarded since inception





# Student experiences

Hear from several of our young leaders



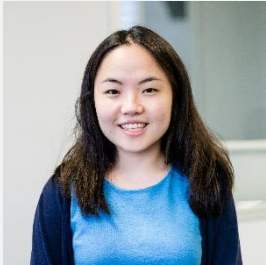
**AMIE BIGIRIMANA SALEM** | Atlas Scholars Class of 2016 | Carleton College | Wisdom (Lee) HS

*Atlas Scholars is a dynamic program that definitely prepared me for college and life in more ways than one. I went from a clueless high school student to a more vigilant, wise and prepared student ready for a lot of the blows college has thrown my way. **The program taught me how to be a professional** so I walked into my jobs with the training needed to excel in those roles without the help of my bosses. **I also have a professional network** due to Atlas Scholars. **The program also equipped me with the tools and the mindset that have been essential in my success** thus far professionally, socially and academically.*



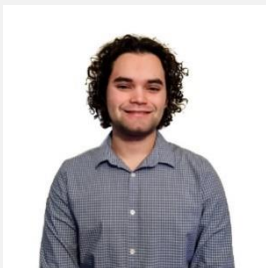
**MAURICIO OSUNA** | Atlas Scholars Class of 2017 | The University of Michigan | Carnegie Vanguard HS

*Atlas Scholars has helped me **formulate ambitious goals** for my future and **develop the strategies I needed to achieve them**. The program gave me the opportunity to **reflect on my strengths and build on my weaknesses** thanks to guidance from mentors in the program, who are dedicated to improving every student's future. The resources and mentorship I received during the program were a **huge help during the stressful college application process**. Being immersed in a professional business environment where I was able to develop key skills in networking and team cooperation has **helped prepare me for both college and my career**.*



**HAEYUN LEE** | Atlas Scholars Class of 2017 | Harvard University | HSPVA

*Joining Atlas Scholars in the beginning of high school **set me up on the path to success**. Through specially designed projects each summer starting sophomore year to senior year, **I developed confidence** in my public speaking skills and my ability to understand and research subjects I did not have any experience in. At Atlas, **you learn how to think about the world** and how to view current events from a global perspective, which was something I never really learned in school. Although the program's focus is on business, **I still use the skills I learned in Atlas today**, and I can't imagine myself being where I am today had I not participated in the program.*



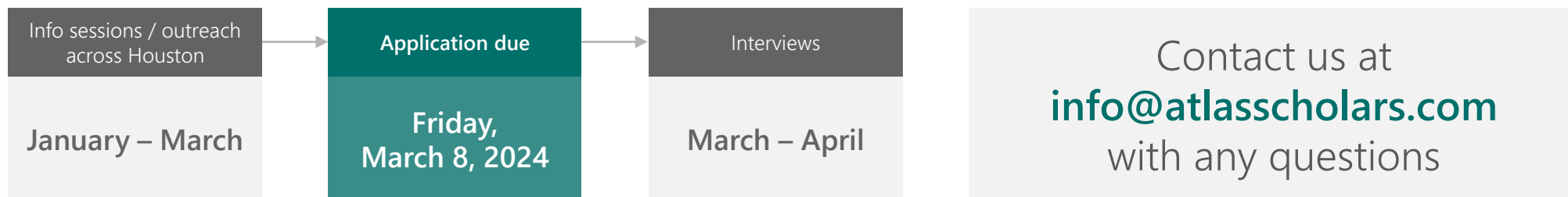
**SAM BULEY** | Atlas Scholars Class of 2019 | The University of Texas at Austin | Westside HS

*Atlas Scholars has opened doors for me that I never would have access to otherwise. It has given me access to valuable mentorship from all kinds of people – be it college students, entrepreneurs, or leaders of the energy industry. Additionally, the mentors at Atlas gave me the knowledge I needed to craft a competitive college application. With their help, my applications have stood out, **allowing me to choose between schools I never would have dreamed of**.*

# Application timeline and instructions

All application details, materials, and FAQs at [www.atlasscholars.org](http://www.atlasscholars.org)

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## Application submission

**Completed applications are due by Friday, March 8, 2024**

All application details and materials are at [www.atlasscholars.org](http://www.atlasscholars.org)

Application components:

a) Written application

*Includes student information, grit assessment, resume, transcript, and essay / personal statement.*

b) Letter of recommendation

## Frequently-asked questions

What do you look for in candidates?

- Drive and dedication to personal growth
- Team players who aim to be leaders in their communities
- Humility and a desire to help others achieve success

Do I have to know about energy and finance?

- No – we look for interest in the goals and mission of the program, which extend far beyond the industry curriculum
- Alumni have majored in and worked in a wide range of fields

Is the summer internship paid?

- Yes – we provide a stipend of \$12/hour





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