



SUNY **STARTUP SUMMER SCHOOL**

Welcome S4 Class of 2025!

Week 1

Entrepreneurship 101 – What It Takes To Commercialize Your Tech





SUNY Research Foundation's Office of Industry and External Affairs provides programs and services that make SUNY the best place for innovators and entrepreneurs to accelerate the development of new technologies aimed at solving the world's most pressing problems.

S4 Goals

1. Provide the foundation of knowledge, learning, and networks that entrepreneurs and innovators need to be successful.
2. Help new ventures secure the initial funding needed to de-risk technology, validate market opportunity, and build initial team.



The Team



Nicholas Querques



Peter Taubkin



Joy Goswami



Sara Goodman



Meg Maier



Austin Winter



Patrick Nelson



Mahfuzur Miah



Ben Clark



Brittany Wade



Jessica Stanley-Updyke



Joanne Lafrancois



Lance Reich



Peter Fallon



Doug Benel



Karl-Heinz Schofalvi

Innovation and Partnerships



New Ventures



Marketing and Communications

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Course Title	Presenters
1	May 28	Entrepreneurship 101 – What It Takes To Commercialize Your Tech	Felix Litvinsky, Abakama Allison Yacci, DataCicada
2	June 4	Discover Customer Discovery	Olga Petrova, University at Buffalo Kathryn Cherny, Binghamton University
3	June 11	Evaluation of the Opportunity – Patentability and Marketability Basics	Lance Reich, SUNY RF Joy Goswami, SUNY RF
4	June 18	How To Win Grants – Mastering Non-Dilutive Funding Sources	Kirk Macolini, InteliSpark
5	June 25	Forming and Structuring Your Company Like a Boss	Rich Honen, Phillips Lytle
6	July 2	Team Chemistry – Leveling Up Your Company	Doug Benel, SUNY RF Ana-Maria Galeano, Galeano Law Firm
7	July 9	Strategies for Unstoppable Success	Arel Moodie, Reed Oak
8	July 16	Telling and Selling Your Story	Maureen Ballatori, Agency 29 Michael Lightman, Hate Your Deck
9	July 21- July 25	1:1 Meeting With SUNY Venture Advisors	
10	July 30	Demo Day and Graduation	You!

Course Schedule: What you need to know

1. Recordings will be shared after each class, but we highly encourage you to attend live to take advantage of the full experience.
2. During the course, we will provide valuable resources to help you get your bearings and learn about others in your cohort, including a class directory.
3. We will also include some activities that will help you meet your classmates. Stay tuned for a prize!
4. At the end of each live session, please answer a 1 question Zoom poll about this week's topic. Your feedback helps us improve the program.
5. You will have an opportunity to provide feedback at the end of the course. If you have any questions, issues or ideas along the way, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Course Schedule: What you need to know

1. **May 28-July 16**: Instructional Zoom webinars will be held every Wednesday from 10:30-12:00 PM ET. Invites have been sent.
2. **June 30 – July 28**: Virtual I-Corps short regional course. We will provide more information and a registration link: tfaforms.com/5172871.
3. **July 21 – July 25**: Office hours with Venture Advisors to apply what you are learning and prep for your Demo Day pitch.
4. **July 30**: S4 culminates with a Demo Day and Graduation celebration where participants pitch their technology or venture for one or more \$50k Technology Accelerator Fund Catalyst Investments. Demo Day and Graduation are scheduled to be in person at the University at Albany's ETEC Complex in Albany, NY on July 30.

SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund (TAF)

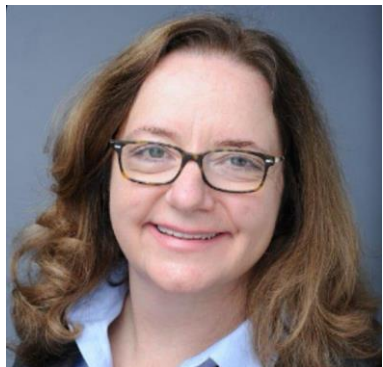
S4 Catalyst Investment Eligibility

To be eligible for a TAF S4 Catalyst Investment, teams and/or companies must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Developing technology that is SUNY intellectual property;
2. Enrolled in the S4 Class of 2025;
3. Participate in the S4 Demo Day pitches on July 30, 2025;
4. By December 31, 2025, complete the company formation process if a company has not already been formed; and
5. By December 31, 2025, the company receiving the TAF S4 Catalyst Investment must demonstrate that it has an active license or option to the technology it plans to commercialize from a SUNY campus.



Meet the Venture Advisors!



Deb Burks



Ana-Maria Galeano



Eric Gordon



Stephen Festin



Michael Lightman



Mark Sperry



Allison Yacci

Join LinkedIn

We will have some activities that will help you meet your classmates. We will give out participation points for the below items.

1. Join the [SUNY Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network LinkedIn Group](#) (link included in this week's follow up email)
2. Comment on the "Welcome to the S4 Class of 2025" post in this LinkedIn group to introduce yourself. Recommendations on what to include: campus affiliation, what you are working on, what you hope to get out of S4 and a fun fact about yourself.
3. Reply to a classmate's post to 'meet' them!

Questions about S4?



Email us at S4@rfsuny.org



Let's jump into our first topic!



SUNY STARTUP
SUMMER SCHOOL

Entrepreneurship 101

What It Takes To Commercialize Your Tech



Meet Your Presenters



Felix Litvinsky
Founder & CEO
Abakama



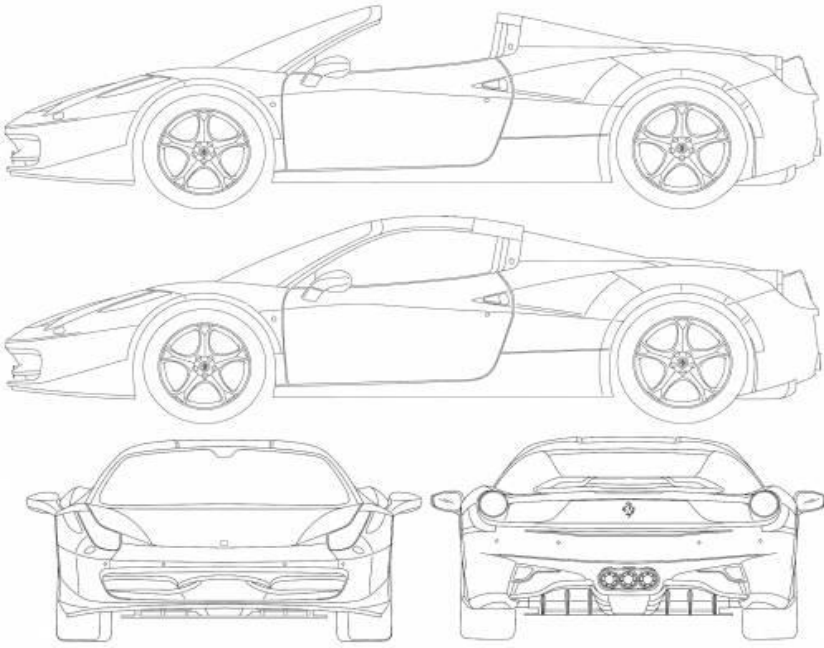
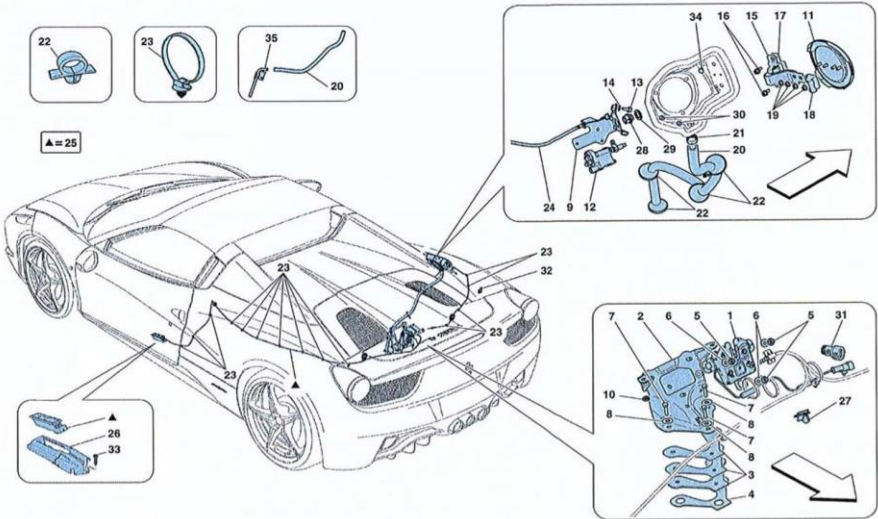
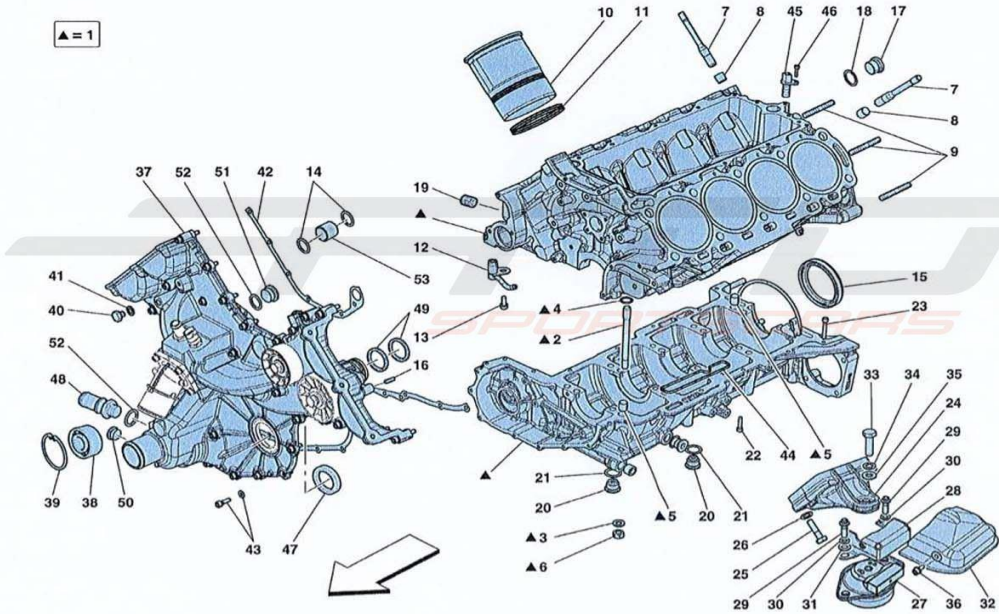
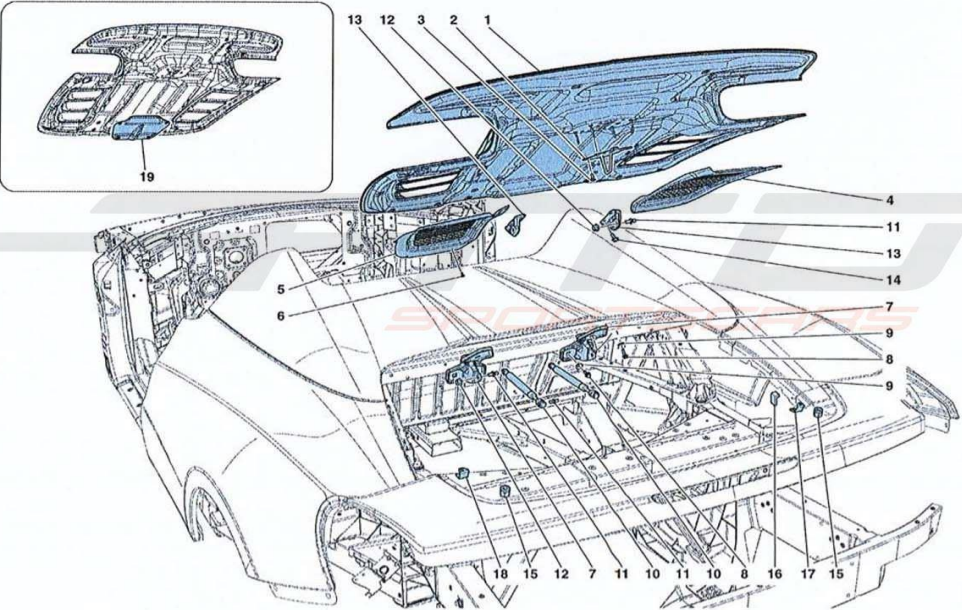
Allison Yacci
Founder & CEO
DataCicada



- > **Why are you here?**
- > **How important is the technology?**
- > **What gives you a sense of purpose?**
- > **What are you looking to get out of this experience?**









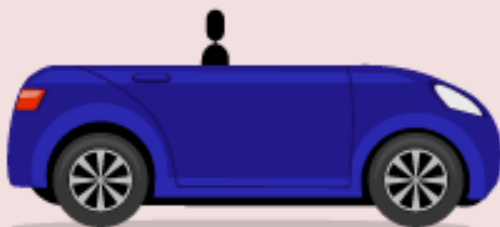




1



2



3



4









The Business Model Canvas

Designed for:

Designed by:

Date:

Version:

Key Partners  <p>Who are our Key Partners? Who are our key suppliers? Which Key Resources are we acquiring from partners? Which Key Activities do partners perform?</p> <p>MOTIVATIONS FOR PARTNERSHIPS Optimization and economy Reduction of risk and uncertainty Acquisition of particular resources and activities</p>	Key Activities  <p>What Key Activities do our Value Propositions require? Our Distribution Channels? Customer Relationships? Revenue streams?</p> <p>CATEGORIES Production Problem Solving Platform/Network</p>	Value Propositions  <p>What value do we deliver to the customer? Which one of our customer's problems are we helping to solve? What bundles of products and services are we offering to each Customer Segment? Which customer needs are we satisfying?</p> <p>CHARACTERISTICS Newness Performance Customization "Getting the Job Done" Design Brand/Status Price Cost Reduction Risk Reduction Accessibility Convenience/Usability</p>	Customer Relationships  <p>What type of relationship does each of our Customer Segments expect us to establish and maintain with them? Which ones have we established? How are they integrated with the rest of our business model? How costly are they?</p> <p>EXAMPLES Personal assistance Dedicated Personal Assistance Self-Service Automated Services Communities Co-creation</p>	Customer Segments  <p>For whom are we creating value? Who are our most important customers?</p> <p>Mass Market Niche Market Segmented Diversified Multi-sided Platform</p>			
Key Resources  <p>What Key Resources do our Value Propositions require? Our Distribution Channels? Customer Relationships? Revenue Streams?</p> <p>TYPES OF RESOURCES Physical Intellectual (brand patents, copyrights, data) Human Financial</p>		Channels  <p>Through which Channels do our Customer Segments want to be reached? How are we reaching them now? How are our Channels integrated? Which ones work best? Which ones are most cost-efficient? How are we integrating them with customer routines?</p> <p>CHANNEL PHASES 1. Awareness How do we raise awareness about our company's products and services? 2. Evaluation How do we help customers evaluate our organization's Value Proposition? 3. Purchase How do we allow customers to purchase specific products and services? 4. Delivery How do we deliver a Value Proposition to customers? 5. After sales How do we provide post-purchase customer support?</p>					
Cost Structure  <p>What are the most important costs inherent in our business model? Which Key Resources are most expensive? Which Key Activities are most expensive?</p> <p>IS YOUR BUSINESS MORE Cost Driven (lowest cost structure, low price value proposition, maximum automation, extensive outsourcing) Value Driven (focused on value creation, premium value proposition)</p> <p>SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS Fixed Costs (salaries, rents, utilities) Variable costs Economies of scale Economies of scope</p>		Revenue Streams  <p>For what value are our customers really willing to pay? For what do they currently pay? How are they currently paying? How would they prefer to pay? How much does each Revenue Stream contribute to overall revenues?</p> <table><tr><td>TYPES Asset sale Usage fee Subscription Fees Lending/Renting/Leasing Licensing Brokerage fees Advertising</td><td>FIXED PRICING List Price Product feature dependent Customer segment dependent Volume dependent</td><td>Dynamic Pricing Negotiation (bargaining) Yield Management Real-time Market</td></tr></table>			TYPES Asset sale Usage fee Subscription Fees Lending/Renting/Leasing Licensing Brokerage fees Advertising	FIXED PRICING List Price Product feature dependent Customer segment dependent Volume dependent	Dynamic Pricing Negotiation (bargaining) Yield Management Real-time Market
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DESIGNED BY: Business Model Foundry AG
The makers of Business Model Generation and Strategyzer

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Entrepreneurs



What my mom thinks I do



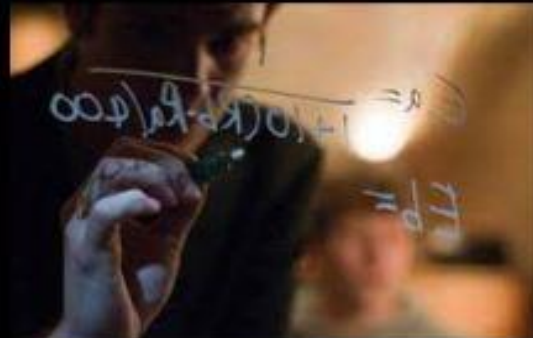
What my friends think I do



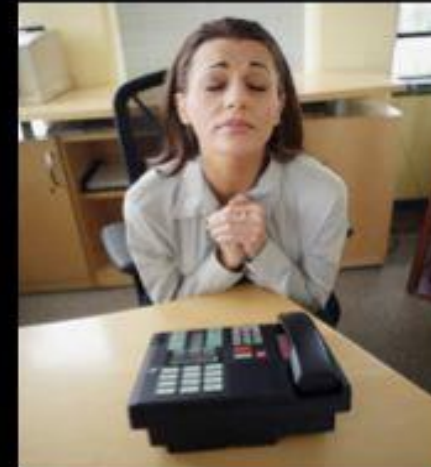
What society thinks I do



What investors think I do



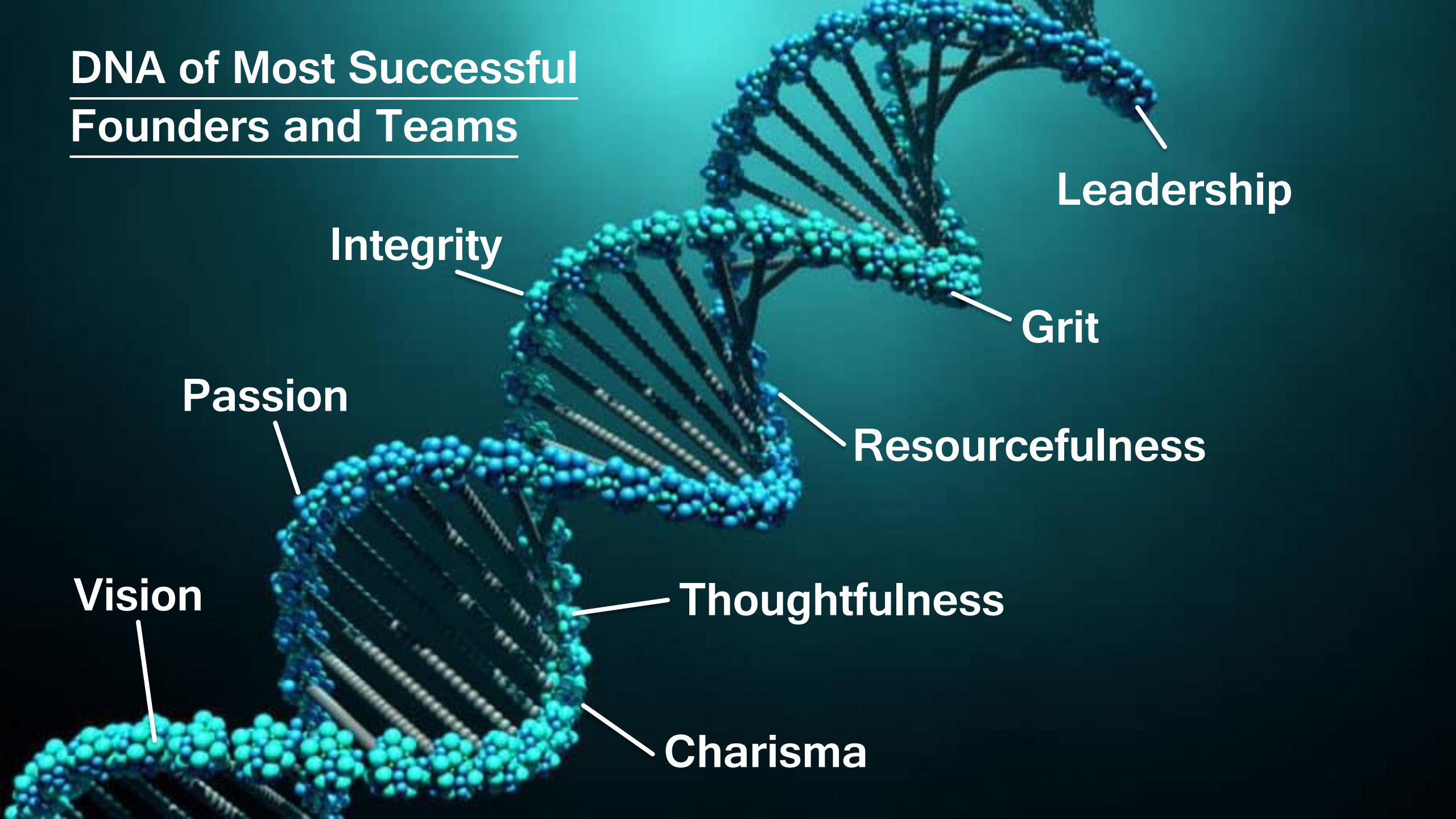
What I think I do



What I really do

Credit: CJ Cornell

DNA of Most Successful Founders and Teams



Leadership

Integrity

Grit

Resourcefulness

Passion

Vision

Thoughtfulness

Charisma

What is Pitching?

- > Pitching is not the beginning of the end – it is a continuous work in progress
- > Use visuals and don't be too wordy – less is more
- > You need to know your audience (customer) and your market inside and out
- > Practice, practice, practice



Example Pitch Video



You Do Not Want To Hear This After Your Pitch

- > What problem are you solving?
- > What are you selling?
- > Who is your customer?
- > Is there a big market?
- > Tell me about your team?
- > How do you make money?



- > **Why are you here?**
- > **How important is the technology?**
- > **What gives you a sense of purpose?**
- > **What are you looking to get out of this experience?**



Thank you!

- > Please answer the Zoom poll question
- > Recording will be sent tomorrow
- > Don't forget to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#)
- > Reach out with any questions, issues or ideas
- > See you next week for

Discover Customer Discovery

Olga Petrova, University at Buffalo

Kathryn Cherny, Binghamton University

