



About the Conference

- In April this year, Wharton FinTech organized a 2-day conference in partnership with Penn Blockchain to present the leading edge of all things FinTech. Topics include Payments, Lending, Globalization & Regulation, Identity & Fraud, Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) and Infrastructure. Companies featured include:



What I learned

Some of the talks that I attended:

1. The state of fintech fundraising and dealmaking
2. Financial Health, Inclusion, and Accessibility
3. What's Next For Personal Finance?
4. Emergence of Decentralized Finance (DeFi)
5. W-2, Meet 1099: The Future of the Gig & Creator Economies

Key takeaways:

- I attended this conference while taking a class on FinTech business models last semester. It was incredible to be able to hear from FinTech founders, CEOs, and thought leaders on what they think is the next big trend and where the field is headed.
- I personally liked the discussion on the gig & creator economies. Our economy is built for full-time employees, those with high job securities and benefits, and any deviation from that is currently not supported. Start-ups like Gig Wage, Stride Health, Steady, Catch are building various solutions to bridge those gaps, such as by providing health benefits for part-time workers, building system for companies to pay one-time workers faster, etc.



About the Program

- The VFS Fellowship Program helps college students of Vietnamese descent succeed during their summer finance internships and beyond. The program will provide mentorship support, educational events, and networking opportunities with young professionals, senior leaders and high-achieving peers in the industry.

What I did

- Attended weekly guest speaker events to learn about different career opportunities within finance industry. Speakers are senior leaders with wide range of experience in investment banking, hedge fund, venture capital, real estate finance, fintech, etc.
- Received ongoing mentorship advice from a finance professional working in investment banking throughout the duration of my internship; gained access to a network of VFS advisors, alumni and fellows for future career support and guidance.



Key takeaways:

This program provided me with a network of like-minded friends and mentors that I had always been looking for. Although I have decided to take a break from finance for now, the people I have met on this program were incredible and inspired me in so many ways. Many of our guest speakers are prominent figures in their respective field but they are so humble and caring. They have shown me how far curiosity, hard work, and perseverance can take you.