

PRESTON SCHLAGHECK

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EDUCATION

Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC | May 2028

B.S. Business Administration | Finance & Business Analytics | GPA: 3.72/4.00 | President's List, Dean's List

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AI Strategy & Automations Intern | Direct Journeyline Holdings, LLC

Knoxville, TN | May 2026 - Present

- Run monthly reconciliations across 20 locations and \$2M+ in annual payments, matching processor, booking platform, CRM, and dashboard records to catch mispayments, duplicate charges, and revenue leakage.
- Turn each monthly close into action plans on receivables, bad debt, and outstanding collections.
- Produce weekly occupancy and performance reporting across 9 sites for investors, leadership, and site managers, automating a multi-hour team process into an instant one that saves 10+ hours a week.
- Analyze parcel and property data for site acquisitions, supporting 2 completed truck parking deals.
- Build forecasting models and KPI reporting that leadership uses to set marketing spend across the portfolio.

Head of Product | Mano Wellness, LLC

Remote | Sep 2026 - Present

- Lead product for Manny, an agentic health coach on iOS and web that reads Apple Health and five wearable platforms and steps in on its own before a member's habits slip, instead of waiting to be opened.
- Launched on the App Store in September 2026 and grew to hundreds of users with no paid marketing, holding 90%+ engagement and 80%+ retention, with revenue from corporate subscriptions and coaching.
- Run the corporate pipeline on a five-person team, live with 4+ clients and 30+ more companies in demo.

Co-Founder & AI Strategy Consultant | CogNodes, LLC

Remote / NJ | Oct 2025 - Aug 2026

- Co-founded an AI consulting firm and served 8 paying clients across SaaS, e-commerce, and professional services, owning scoping, pricing, and delivery from first call to launch for five figures in total revenue.
- Negotiated a fixed-fee plus equity deal for Lookr and shipped the fashion app to hundreds of App Store users.

Co-Founder & Lead Engineer | DPJ Media, LLC (Diffuse)

Remote / PA | Dec 2025 - Aug 2026

- Built an AI newsroom that lets one person run an entire county's local news, turning meeting recordings, filings, and public records into publication-ready articles in under five minutes and publishing them automatically.
- Published 100+ articles across 3 towns, reaching 25,000+ monthly readers and profitability in four months.

Generative & Agentic AI Integrations Intern | US HealthConnect, Inc.

Fort Washington, PA | Sep 2025 - Mar 2026

- Built 6 automation workflows and deployed 2 AI agents for finance, compliance, and operations teams at a healthcare company, reaching 40+ employees and cutting turnaround time 35% and drafting time 20%.

Web Developer | Direct Journeyline Holdings, LLC

Knoxville, TN | Jul 2025 - May 2026

- Rebuilt sites across portfolio companies, cutting click-path length 50% and instrumenting ad budget analytics.

LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR

Chief Technology Officer | Garnet Fund

Columbia, SC | Jul 2026 - Present

- Built and run the platform USC's first student-run investment fund operates on, giving 35+ members live brokerage positions, performance, position-level attribution, research, and team messaging for \$100K+ in assets.
- Automated intraday and end-of-day risk checks each trading day, flagging events the board acted on quickly.

Alpha Fund Manager | Alpha Kappa Psi, Beta Upsilon Chapter

Columbia, SC | Jun 2025 - Nov 2025

- Managed a \$23,000 portfolio to a 12% six-month return, leading DCF modeling and pitch reviews for 12 analysts.

President | Sigma Phi Epsilon, SC Alpha Chapter

Columbia, SC | Nov 2025 - Present

- Lead executive board operations, operating budget, recruitment, and risk compliance for USC's largest chapter at 230+ active members, which holds the #1 GPA ranking out of 24 IFC fraternities on campus.

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Finance: Financial modeling, DCF valuation, reconciliation, accounts receivable, forecasting, investor reporting

Tools: Excel, SQL, Python, dashboards, process automation, AI agents

Certifications: UBS M&A Finance Accelerator (AmplifyME, 2025); AI Fluency Framework & Foundations (Anthropic, 2026)