

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

Head of Product | Mano Wellness, LLC

Remote | Sep 2026 - Present

- Lead product and engineering 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.
- Run a production backend of 140+ serverless functions behind member, coach, corporate, and admin portals, with scheduled jobs, row-level access control, and a test gate before every deploy.
- Tested native tool calling against a custom action format and shipped the custom one for its higher accuracy.
- Built guardrails that price food from a 1,900+ item database and sanity-check every number before a reply ships.
- Grew to hundreds of users at 90%+ engagement and 80%+ retention, with 4+ corporate clients and no paid ads.

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 recordings, filings, and public records into publication-ready articles in under five minutes and publishing them automatically.
- Architected a multi-tenant platform with workspaces, member roles, and subscription gating so new towns launch on the same system, scaling to 3 towns, 100+ articles, and 25,000+ monthly readers.

AI Strategy & Automations Intern | Direct Journeyline Holdings, LLC

Knoxville, TN | May 2026 - Present

- Built MCP servers and agent skills that give non-technical staff natural-language access to occupancy, booking, and payment data across five platforms, replacing manual exports for every analysis.
- Automated weekly occupancy reporting across 9 sites, cutting a multi-hour team process to instant.
- Built AI-assisted monthly reconciliation across 20 locations and \$2M+ in annual payment volume.
- Built parcel and property mapping dashboards that supported 2 completed site acquisitions.

Co-Founder & AI Strategy Consultant | CogNodes, LLC

Remote / NJ | Oct 2025 - Aug 2026

- Shipped production AI systems and full-stack products for 8 paying clients across SaaS and e-commerce.
- Built and launched Lookr with a client, a measurement-matched fashion app now serving hundreds of users.

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.

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.

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.

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Development: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, SQL, React, Next.js, React Native, Node.js, Postgres, Supabase, Vercel, Git

AI & Data: LLM orchestration, agentic systems, MCP, RAG, embeddings, evaluation and guardrails, ETL pipelines, REST APIs

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