

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: 3.79/4.00 | President's List, Dean's List

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AI Strategy & Automations Intern | Direct Journeyline Holdings, LLC

Knoxville, TN | May 2026 - Aug 2026

- Building LLM agent architectures and automation pipelines for KPI reporting, construction budget management, and executive workflow tooling across a multi-company holding portfolio.
- Running competitive market analysis and authoring executive presentations for portfolio company leadership across the holding group.

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

Remote / PA | Dec 2025 - Present

- Built and deployed Diffuse, a proprietary AI content platform that converts audio recordings, documents, and public records into publication-ready articles with automated CMS publishing in under 5 minutes.
- Architected multi-tenant infrastructure supporting organization workspaces, member roles, and subscription plan gating. Reached 25,000+ monthly readers and operational profitability within 4 months.

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

Fort Washington, PA | Sep 2025 - April 2026

- Designed and deployed LLM agent workflows using n8n and OpenAI APIs, automating document drafting and operational tasks across finance, compliance, and operations teams, cutting turnaround time by 35%.
- Replaced manual content review cycles with a prompt-engineered AI generation pipeline that reduced drafting time by 20% and was adopted across both technical and non-technical teams.

Co-Founder, AI Strategy Consultant | CogNodes, LLC

Freehold, NJ | Oct 2025 - Present

- Run end-to-end consulting engagements for paying clients across SaaS, e-commerce, and professional services, covering discovery, quantitative analysis, product roadmap development, and go-to-market execution.
- Ship custom AI automation systems, API integrations, and production full-stack products tailored to client operational requirements.

Web Developer | Direct Journeyline Holdings, LLC

Knoxville, TN | Jul 2025 - May 2026

- Redesigned site architecture across multiple portfolio companies, cutting average click-path length by 50% and implementing analytics tracking to capture user behavior data for marketing and budget decisions.
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LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR

President | Sigma Phi Epsilon, SC Alpha Chapter

Columbia, SC | Nov 2025 - Present

- Lead executive board operations and IFC compliance programming for USC's largest chapter, holding the #1 GPA ranking out of 23 IFC fraternities.
- Oversee chapter operating budget and recruitment pipeline, managing executive board cadence and risk compliance across 230+ active members.

Alpha Fund Manager | Alpha Kappa Psi, Beta Upsilon Chapter

Columbia, SC | Mar 2025 - Dec 2025

- Managed a \$23,000 student investment portfolio that returned 12% over 3 months and 18% over 12 months through financial modeling, sector research, and analyst team leadership.
 - Ran weekly investment committee meetings with 12 analysts, evaluating equity pitches through DCF model defense and conviction-weighted position sizing across diversified sector mandates.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AI & Automation: Large language models (LLMs), prompt engineering, agentic AI systems, agent architecture, n8n workflow automation, multi-model orchestration, OpenAI API, Anthropic API, AssemblyAI, RAG, structured output handling

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

Strategy & Finance: Financial modeling, DCF valuation, KPI development, business intelligence, go-to-market strategy

Certifications: UBS M&A Finance Accelerator (AmplifyME, 2025)