

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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What led you to Stanford and the GSE?

My path to Stanford was shaped by two seemingly opposite but deeply complementary insights and by a single, unwavering purpose that has guided every chapter of my life: helping people become their best selves.

I chose psychology as my first career precisely because of that purpose. For five years, I worked to help people be happier and unlock their own talents, learning along the way the profound value of individualization, understanding each person as unique, with their own needs, strengths, and learning style. But I also came to feel an urgency for greater reach. Public policy called to me because it offered the possibility of faster, wider social impact. As a strategic projects advisor for the State Government of Rio de Janeiro, leading cross-sector projects with multiple secretaries, I learned what it means to drive change at a systemic level.

Stanford lit up the possibility I had been searching for: that technology and entrepreneurship could be the bridge between these two worlds. You do not have to choose between personalizing the learning experience and reaching millions of people. You can do both. Stanford's values — changing lives, changing the world — resonated with everything I believed, and I felt immediately at home, a sense of belonging and pride I have carried ever since. The GSE's POLS program (Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies) was exactly the right vehicle for that conviction, designed for action-oriented professionals who want to lead and create change across sectors of education. That is precisely who I wanted to become.

How did your education and time at the GSE inform your career and life path?

My time at the GSE sharpened skills I use every single day: critical thinking, evidence-based decision making, leadership, academic writing, and, above all, a deep curiosity about how people learn. These were not just theoretical frameworks; they became my professional Foundation.

Two experiences stand out as genuinely defining. The first was my capstone project, “How People Learn,” assisted by Nobel Laureate Professor Carl Wieman, which grounded me in the science of learning in ways that continue to influence every product and program I design. The second was joining the inaugural team at the Vice Provost for Online Learning (VPOL) office, where I was part of the team that built Stanford's first online learning platform from the ground up. Working 20 hours a week alongside software engineers, computer scientists, social scientists, marketing specialists, and postdoctoral researchers gave me a front-row seat to what it looks like when technology and education meet with intention and rigor. That experience made

real everything I had come to Stanford to explore.

Beyond the work, I am grateful for the friendships built over football games, birthday celebrations, and lunches after talks. Our cohort was a community of people who challenged and energized one another, valuing our differences and encouraging our dreams.

Who were the key stakeholders or mentors in your journey?

The people at Stanford made all the difference. Roberta Katz, currently a staff emeritus retiree, was an extraordinary personal advisor, someone who helped me let go of unnecessary self pressure and embrace a steadier, more patient relationship with growth. She reminded me that trust in the process, and in time, is not passivity, but wisdom.

Professor Eric Bettinger, my advisor at the Lemann Center, opened doors into the world of higher education research and helped me see the broader landscape of educational equity and rigorous inquiry. And Professor Thomas Ehrlich, my academic advisor, accepted me fully for who I am and guided me toward the VPOL experience that would go on to shape the arc of my entire career. His trust in me was a gift I have tried to pass forward ever since.

What key events or memories have shaped your experience to date?

One class changed how I see myself, not just as a professional but as a person: “Designing Your Life,” offered through the GSB. It pushed me to ask harder questions about what I actually wanted and gave me a framework for pursuing it with intention rather than inertia. That course continues to influence how I approach decisions, transitions, and the people I lead.

On the professional side, my work at the Office of the Vice Provost for Online Learning remains a landmark memory. There is something irreplaceable about being part of building something from zero, watching an idea become a platform, and a platform become a resource for thousands of learners. That experience planted the seed for everything I would later build.

What are you doing now and/or what is next in your career path?

I’m the founder and CEO of Education Journey, an HR tech company in the workforce development space. We use artificial intelligence to make corporate education both personalized and scalable, the exact convergence I came to Stanford to explore. Our platform helps organizations upskill and reskill their people in ways that are tailored to individual learners without sacrificing reach or efficiency. At its core, Education Journey exists to help people become their professional best, regardless of their role, level, or the path they want to pursue. In a moment when AI is fundamentally reshaping the future of work, I can think of no more urgent or meaningful mission.

The work draws on everything I have built: my psychology training, my government experience, my research at Stanford, my years in Silicon Valley edtech start-ups, and my deep belief that adult learning in the workforce is one of the most consequential and underinvested areas in education today. I am also a proud founding member of Brazil at Silicon Valley, an initiative led

by Brazilian students from Stanford and Berkeley to advance Brazil's competitiveness through innovation and technology. Earlier in my journey, I was recognized with the Lemann Foundation's innovation in education start-up award, which reaffirmed that this path, at the intersection of learning science, technology, and human development, is exactly where I belong.

What advice or message would you like to share with your alumni peers, future graduates, and aspiring GSE students?

Find a niche that genuinely interests you, not one that simply sounds impressive, and commit to it with real curiosity. The field of education, especially at the intersection of technology and workforce development, is evolving faster than almost any other. Innovation will not wait for permission, and it will not slow down for comfort. The question is not whether change is coming; it is whether you will be someone who shapes it or someone who reacts to it.

Be ethical, be kind, and be present. Do the work with care. Hard work without integrity is hollow, and speed without attention is noise. Show up fully: for your students, your colleagues, your community, and yourself.

And above all: trust the process. The most important things are built slowly, with patience and faith. Stanford gave me that lesson, and I have tried never to forget it.