RINESH SUNTHAR

Wexford, PA | 412-897-5159 | rineshsunthar08@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/rinesh-sunthar

Education

North Allegheny Senior High School — **Wexford, PA**
High School Diploma — *Class of 2027*
Programs: Y Combinator Startup School
Relevant Coursework: AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP Psychology, AP Spanish, Honors Finance & Investments, Honors International Business

Ventures

Futr — **Pittsburgh, PA**
Co-Founder & CEO — *Jan 2024 – Present*
- 501(c)(3) multilingual AI platform that helps immigrants navigate banking, jobs, and taxes
- Fine-tuned custom AI agents on IRS documentation to give tailored tax, banking, and employment guidance to 9,000+ users in 90+ countries
- Built a partner network of 13 legal clinics and firms nationwide; secured $15k+ in non-dilutive funding
- Endorsed by PNC and EY; featured on CBS News; lead a team of 7+ across product, research, and operations

IRIS — **Pittsburgh, PA**
Co-Founder, Product & Funding · Pitt ECE Lab — *Jun 2025 – Present*
- Affordable AI glasses that give blind users offline navigation and scene recognition
- Raised $40k+ in grants; recognized by the White House, Google, and Amazon
- Led user testing with blind users and built a school and clinic partner pipeline for deployment
- Working with Chat GPT Team

SasNotch — **sasnotch.vercel.app**
Creator — *Oct 2026*
- Built and shipped a free, open-source macOS app that turns the MacBook notch into a Dynamic Island-style hub, developed with Claude Code (GitHub)

Experience

Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania — **Pittsburgh, PA**
Strategic Impact Mentor — *Sep 2026 – Present*
- First high school student hired onto professional staff, after placing as a national finalist (top 15 of 1,000+ teams) in JA's Social Innovation Challenge
- Scouted 20+ ventures addressing the regional talent gap; coaching 2 selected teams for national competition

Break Into VC — **Remote**
Venture Capital Fellow (1 of 12 selected from 400+) — *Jul 2025 – Oct 2025*
- Screened 35+ early-stage fintech and healthtech startups for market fit and policy risk; evaluated SAFE terms and modeled pitch outcomes
- Drafted founder-sourcing memos and prepared briefs for interviews with VCs to reverse-engineer their evaluation frameworks

Hallmark – OvertureXL — **Pittsburgh, PA**
Tech & Strategy Intern (only high school intern) — *May 2025 – Jul 2025*
- Mapped health compliance gaps (HIPAA, SOC 2) across 10 markets and benchmarked 17 firms; findings shaped the CTO's roadmap for an AI caregiver platform
- Built a Python model to track growth metrics, feeding weekly strategy briefs for leadership

Research

Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business — **Pittsburgh, PA**
Independent Researcher, advised by Prof. Ales — *Aug 2026 – Present*
- Testing whether NYC's AI hiring-audit law (Local Law 144) helps or hurts hiring equity, advised by a CMU economics professor
- Building a triple-difference model on Census QWI, CPS, and the Felten AI occupational exposure index; publication expected late 2026 – early 2027

Leadership

North Allegheny Policy Debate — **Wexford, PA**
Team Captain — *Aug 2024 – Present*
- Grew the team from 4 to 15+ debaters into a nationally ranked program; only state champion in the school's 65+ year history, recognized at the PA Capitol

- Lead practices 3x/week, built the team's training curriculum, and organize national tournament travel

Pittsburgh Forensics Institute **Pittsburgh, PA**
Debate Coach & Founder, Mentorship Program *Jun 2024 – Present*
- Founded a mentorship program for under-resourced debaters; mentored 6 students, all to top-10 national finishes and top-50 rankings
- Designed and ran drills for 25+ campers

North Allegheny Startup Society **Pittsburgh, PA**
President & Founder, School Club *Apr 2026 – Present*
- Founded and scaled high school entrepreneurship club to 25+ students; run workshops, competitions, hackathons, etc.

Scouts America **Pittsburgh, PA**
Eagle Scout; Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Historian *2023 – Present*
- Led 18 volunteers on an Eagle Project for HEARTH, a shelter for single-parent families: built a mini-library and a $22k+ provision budgeting system serving 70+
- Mentored all 13 new scouts to rank advancement; maintain the troop website for 190+ families

Honors & Awards

Entrepreneurship & Research
- SXSW Student Impact Challenge Global Finalist: 1 of 6 worldwide; $3,500 grant from the Allstate Foundation
- Carnegie Youth Leaders Scholar: $5,000 grant and executive mentorship for AI development
- Piñata Pitch Competition, Top 3: selected from 340+ applicants to pitch VCs in Montreal
- Junior Achievement Social Innovation Challenge National Finalist: top 15 of 1,000+ teams
- Samsung Solve for Tomorrow "Promising STEM Innovation"
- Griptape Challenge Grant

Debate
- Public Forum Champion, Tournament of Champions
- Champion & Top Speaker, International Olympiad for Forensics (Team USA)
- Undefeated Top Seed & Semifinalist, Stanford Invitational (Policy)
- NSDA Premier Distinction; NSDA Service Award (~top 0.5% nationally)

Academic & Service
- Pennsylvania Economics Challenge State Champion, 2025 (1 of 64 teams)
- Coca-Cola Scholars Semi-Finalist, 2027 (1,227 of 113,000+)

Additional Information

Technical: LLM fine-tuning and AI agents, Claude Code, econometrics (difference-in-differences), Census and CPS data
Business: venture due diligence, SAFE and term analysis, compliance research, partnerships, fundraising, user research
Languages: English, Tamil, Spanish
Interests: barbering (self-taught, 8+ regulars), photography, cooking, poker, squash