

**Rachelle Westervelt**  
**Student, Telecommunication News & Entrepreneurship**  
**Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida**  
**Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering/Warrington College of Business**

Rachelle Westervelt is a senior studying telecommunication news and entrepreneurship at the University of Florida. This major and minor allowed Rachelle to combine her passion for business, writing and public speaking.

While at UF, Rachelle has worked as a yoga instructor and personal trainer at the campus gym, interned for a local fitness entrepreneur, and developed her reporting and anchoring skills at the campus news station (WUFT). Rachelle has also participated in many other campus organizations and served as the vice president of National Broadcasting Society.

Rachelle has demonstrated entrepreneurship skills since she was seven when she started a lemonade stand venture. Three years later, she started another project at school where she sold what she called “goombies” or stress reliever balls. Her business took off and she made decent money for a 5th grader, but a month in she got called to the principal’s office. Her success was put to a halt. Although she cried and thought she was a bad person for almost getting suspended, her worry turned into pride when her dad told her he was impressed with her success.

Rachelle was motivated by money, and earned it through perseverance and inventiveness. However, it wasn’t until her senior year of high school that she realized she was an entrepreneur. Her high school principal nominated her to attend an entrepreneurship conference called Imagine Solutions.

Outside of her curriculum, Rachelle loves staying active and going on adventures. She believes living a healthy and balanced lifestyle is key to success. She goes on nature walks often as a form of moving meditation and to stimulate the mind, helping her to stay creative and curious.

Rachelle has many aspirations, but because she is an opportunist and is comfortable taking calculated risks, she could see herself pursuing many different career paths throughout her life. One thing she knows for sure though is that she is an entrepreneur.

