

## AZ Inno Under 25 2023: Meet 8 of Arizona's young innovators

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By [Amy Edelen](#) - Reporter

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Arizona's startup ecosystem is flourishing with startups and venture capitalists [continuing to flow into the state](#) for its business-friendly environment, university research and entrepreneurial support programs.

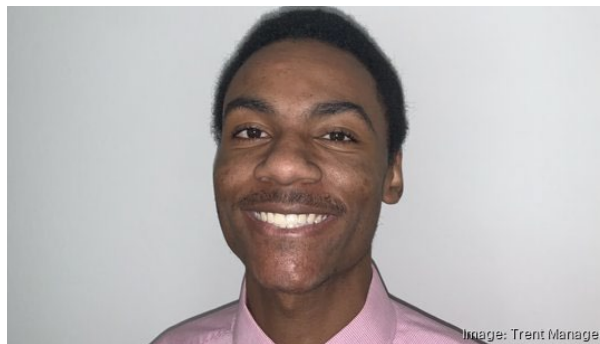
That momentum is only expected to continue as startups — some of which are led by young, innovative entrepreneurs — create new products and solutions to make the world a better place.

In AZ Inno's annual recognition of entrepreneurs under the age of 25, we highlight eight young business leaders whose companies cover a broad range of industries – from software development to retail to helping other entrepreneurs get their ideas off the ground.

Meet AZ Inno's 2023 Under 25 honorees.

### **Trent Manager, co-founder and chief technology officer of BlockTec**

**Age: 23**



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### **Trent Manager**

Trent Manager is the co-founder and chief technology officer for BlockTec, a Phoenix-based software development firm that leverages artificial intelligence, blockchain technology and traditional IT services to help companies boost their technical efficiency.

Manager's career in blockchain and software development was sparked by an interest in finance and the process of developing large-scale projects in industrial architecture, which he studied at Mesa Community College.

"Blockchain does a very great job of keeping the trust and transparency for all of us," he said. "My main grasp of software development really stemmed from an architecture background, and I just really wanted to understand the ins and outs of money and how it's continuously the most important part of our life and how it can be a more fair landscape for everybody."

Manager began his software development career as an independent contractor, overseeing several blockchain projects and earning recognition as a blockchain subject matter expert.

Manager launched BlockTec with Josh Hedeby in January 2022. The company is under incubation at Intertec International, where Manager previously served as a blockchain specialist.

BlockTec has various projects under development, including a widget extension, similar to a personal assistant that connects to a learning management system to gain insight into students' learning styles and provide recommendations, reinforce concepts or answer questions.

Manager aims to potentially partner with a major university to co-develop and implement artificial intelligence-based software for students.

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