

Organization

Activate (www.activate.org) is a nonprofit that runs a best-in-class entrepreneurial fellowship for hardtech founders. Our annual **recruitment and selection** identifies founders with strong potential to create positive social and climate impacts through commercialization of their technologies. Fellows benefit from **funding, education, network support, and community** which maximize their chances of success.

MVP

Our MVP will address gaps in existing support for DAC founders by **layering new, DAC-specific recruitment, selection, education, and networking support** onto our current fellowship to promote development of new DAC startups, build the DAC field, and increase the diversity of the DAC ecosystem.

Implementation Plan

Design It

- Direct recruitment of diverse DAC founders leveraging generative AI and natural language modeling
- Phone banking and hands-on support for DAC applicants

Move It

- Review of DAC applications by DAC-specific subject matter expert
- Down-select of first DAC fellow cohort
- DAC audit of Activate's programming and educational curriculum
- Collaboration with partner organization to develop DAC-specific educational modules

Prove It

- Implementation of identified best practices to recruit a second cohort of DAC fellows
- Update of Activate's programming and educational content based on DAC audit
- Deployment of DAC educational modules via Activate's digital learning management system
- Evaluation of DAC fellows' greenhouse gas emissions reduction potential using CRANE tool
- Networking support for DAC fellows (mentor matching, ecosystem events, affinity groups)

Outcome

A comprehensive DAC fellowship offering which supports 3-5 new DAC founders annually to navigate academic spinout and achieve strong commercialization outcomes (funding, jobs, etc.).