

Devpost Project Story Section

Inspiration

Our inspiration for "Beyond" stems from our experiences as educators and peer mentors in our community. We've witnessed firsthand how the lack of accessibility to education and career information impacts individuals, especially those coming from non-traditional backgrounds, navigating their career paths without parental support, or facing systemic barriers. This drove us to create a solution that empowers everyone to access the resources they need to pursue their educational and career goals.

What it does

"Beyond" is an app designed to provide accessible education and career information to all users. The app serves as a platform where users can find guidance, mentorship, and resources to navigate their career paths. Through personalized recommendations, interactive tools, and a supportive community, "Beyond" aims to make the journey to education and career success more manageable and inclusive for everyone. Upon signing up, users are guided through an intuitive onboarding process, including a personalized skill assessment or survey to tailor their experience. Once logged in, users land on a customized home page where they can discover relevant events, workshops, crash courses, and resources aligned with their career aspirations. The app's Career Explore page allows users to delve into various industries and job opportunities, accessing detailed job summaries, required skills, and relevant certificates or training. The Connect page fosters community engagement, allowing users to interact with peers through posts, comments, and discussions. Users can manage their profiles effectively through the Profile page, accessing liked posts, reviewing skills, editing educational goals, and managing events. "Beyond" is committed to simplifying the journey to education and career success, providing personalized recommendations, interactive tools, and a supportive community for all users, regardless of background or circumstances.

How we built it

We started by conducting a detailed survey, gathering insights from 118 individuals about their career experiences and challenges. This data informed our market research, where we analyzed existing solutions and identified areas for improvement. Using the survey data, we created user personas to understand our target audience better. We then analyzed over 100 free responses from the survey and used affinity mapping to identify key features of the app. In FigJam, we brainstormed app solutions and created a user flow diagram to map out the user journey.

Next, we discussed branding elements to ensure our app resonated with our target audience. We translated wireframes into high-fidelity designs and added interactive elements to enhance user experience. Despite facing challenges in narrowing down the project scope due to the issue's complexity, our passion for this cause fueled us to pull an all-nighter to bring our vision to life.

Challenges we ran into

One of the main challenges we encountered was narrowing down the project's scope. The issue of accessibility in education and career paths is multifaceted, and there are countless solutions to consider— from language to socio-economic barriers. Additionally, balancing the need for comprehensive features with the desire for simplicity and usability posed a challenge during the design process. Despite these challenges, we remained committed to our goal of creating a solution that addresses the diverse needs of our users.

Accomplishments that we were proud of

We're proud of the collaborative effort and dedication that went into creating "Beyond." From conducting extensive research to designing intuitive user interfaces, each team member contributed their skills and expertise to bring the app to life. Additionally, we're proud of our commitment to inclusivity and diversity, ensuring that "Beyond" serves the needs of all users, regardless of their background or circumstances.

What we learned

Through the process of building "Beyond," we gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within the realm of accessible education and career information. We learned the importance of empathy and user-centric design in creating solutions that truly address the needs of our target audience. Additionally, we learned the value of collaboration and effective communication in bringing a project from concept to completion.

What's next for Beyond

In the future, we envision "Beyond" evolving into a comprehensive platform that offers even more resources and support to users. This may include expanding our network of mentors and educators, integrating additional tools for skill development and career planning, and partnering with organizations to provide access to scholarships and other financial assistance programs. Our goal is to continue iterating and improving "Beyond" to ensure that it remains a valuable resource for all individuals seeking to pursue their educational and career aspirations in an accessible manner.