

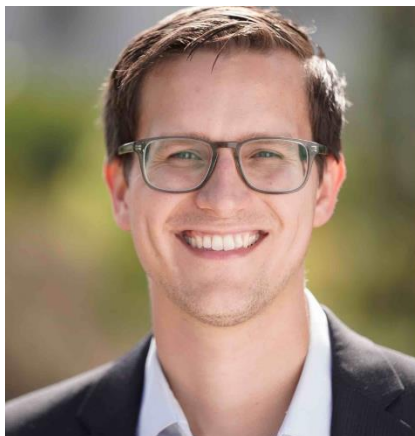
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND AI:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DRIVING ENERGY INNOVATION

PRESENTED BY:



TUESDAY
JULY 29
JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF HOUSTON



Matthew McDermott is the Founder and CEO of Newfound Materials, a deep-tech startup developing AI-based solutions for the discovery and scalable synthesis of critical energy materials, including those used in next-generation batteries, catalysts, and magnets. Newfound's platform leverages predictive modeling to uncover efficient synthesis routes for novel inorganic compounds, accelerating both scientific discovery and commercial deployment.

Before founding Newfound Materials, Matthew was a postdoctoral researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where he contributed to the Materials Project and helped develop the A-Lab, a fully autonomous robotic laboratory for materials discovery. He earned his Ph.D. in Materials Science & Engineering from U.C. Berkeley in 2023 and was named an Activate Fellow in 2024.