



WHAT IT IS + HOW IT WORKS

ConsiliumBots uses artificial intelligence (AI) to help students and their families make more informed decisions by providing dynamic, personalized information at key points in time.

ConsiliumBots' virtual assistant analyzes huge datasets and turns them into easy-to-understand insights that can **help students and families make better educational, financial, and career decisions**. Through web platforms, apps, and text messaging, ConsiliumBots provides tailored and timely information on educational options and strategies, from choosing a school or a college major, to navigating complicated financial aid structures. By equipping all people with information and helping people make the most informed decisions, ConsiliumBots hopes to use AI to increase educational attainment and economic returns while reducing inequality.

ConsiliumBots' model **blends artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities and natural language processing** to respond to evidence showing that people tend to lack adequate information when they make important educational decisions. Randomized control trials (RCTs) conducted in many countries have shown that simply having the right information at the right time can change choices, decrease dropout rates, and increase academic achievement. These outcomes can produce significantly higher lifetimes earnings for students in developing countries, reduce inequality, and potentially even increase a country's productivity.

CONSILIUMBOTS CAN HELP WITH TOUGH DECISIONS, SUCH AS...



Choosing a school



Deciding on a college major



Navigating financial aid

A SCALABLE MODEL

ConsiliumBots is currently testing and improving its search and application assistant products using AI across web, apps, and text messaging in the three Latin American pilot countries. ConsiliumBots' next step is to develop easily adaptable commercial versions of the product and ensure it **meets demand at scale in partnership with other technology companies, implementers, and governments**. While ConsiliumBots has grown from work in Latin America and the Caribbean, its service is scalable and applicable to student populations across the world.

OUR PILOTS: CHILE, COLOMBIA, & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLICAN

To continuously improve our product and service at scale, ConsiliumBots is conducting pilots across three different country environments:



CHILE

In Chile, we are working with the Ministry of Education to reach 500,000 parents and 200,000 senior high school students. We anticipate our assistants will drive more complete school applications and decrease demand by low-income applicants for academic programs that fall in the lowest third of economic returns. In these studies, we are testing a) the role of a warning system in the school choice process and b) information delivery innovations in the college and major choice platform.



COLOMBIA

In Colombia, we are working with ICFES (a research branch of the Ministry of Education) to reach 500,000 senior high school students. We anticipate shifts in the demand for low-return programs. There are over 7,000 higher education options in Colombia, and we aim for ConsiliumBots to help prospective students navigate the options to identify which path meets their interests and skills and provides a high economic return. In this study, we are testing an enhanced technological product that uses text responses and AI to provide more precise and sophisticated information.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the Dominican Republic, we are working with the Vice Ministry of Development Policies and the PROSOLI cash transfer program to reach 5,500 senior high school students in a preliminary pilot and 200,000 in an extended web-based version. We anticipate shifts in the demand for low-return academic programs. In this study, we are testing a simple, household version of the college and major choice search engine to help us understand how we can take the replicable product and integrate it into a more basic government data and administrative system.

WHY IT MATTERS



Thanks to increased government and nonprofit investments in educational infrastructure, millions of people in developing countries today have more opportunities to further their education than ever before. But despite this progress, many low- and middle-income students still have **very little information and guidance to shape educational and career decisions** – from what and where to study, to what career path to take, how to make sense of options, and how to pay for it all. These decisions are extremely significant in a world with great variation in quality of educational institutions and increased job specialization.

Providing students and their families with relevant information at the right time can make a big difference in their lives – several prominent studies have shown that small changes to information can make a measurable impact on educational outcomes in a cost-effective way. According to the World Bank, this **lack of information and transparency is a key obstacle to increasing levels of education for people in developing countries, also hindering efforts to reduce poverty and improve overall quality of life.**

Technology is making the provision of personalized dynamic information possible on a large scale. Just as machine learning and AI have transformed the way companies like Netflix, Amazon, and Facebook guide customer decisions, so too can these technologies influence educational decisions. Similar to the approach these companies take, ConsiliumBots is tapping large datasets to unlock easy-to-understand, tailored insights that can help students and families make better educational and career decisions.

WHO'S INVOLVED

The team has experience in behavioral economics and research, partnerships with governments and educational agencies, IT and product development, and implementation of programs.



Christopher Neilson, the Founder and CEO of ConsiliumBots, is an Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University and holds a PhD in Economics from Yale University.



Felipe Saint-Jean is CTO of ConsiliumBots and the Founder/CEO of School 4 One, an education and technology company that empowers educators to take control of the digital classroom. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from Yale University.



The Global Development Incubator is a nonprofit that builds social impact startups and partnerships by providing startup, strategic, and operational support.



Gonzalo Oyanedel is COO of ConsiliumBots. As former Research Manager at the Poverty Action Lab for Latin America and the Caribbean office, he holds rich experience conducting RCTs and policy implementation in Chile, Perú, Colombia, Dominican Republic and the US.