

THE ADN ACCELERATOR BUZZ



The Buzz
The Latest News in Accelerating Black Leaders

The New Buzz: ADN's Latest in Accelerator Program Updates

ABLE Quarterly Newsletter



Introducing the Second Edition of the ABLE (Now Accelerator) Buzz Newsletter!

Welcome back to another exciting edition of the formerly ABLE Buzz Newsletter. The ABLE Buzz is now the Accelerator Buzz Newsletter!

As we embark on this journey together, we're thrilled to announce some thrilling changes on

the horizon. Moving forward, each issue of the ABLE Buzz will provide comprehensive updates on both of ADN's esteemed accelerator programs: Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE).

In this issue, we're gearing up to bring you an array of engaging content, including:

Alumni Spotlights: Get inspired by the incredible journeys and successes of our ABLE and BAF alumni as they continue to make waves in the entrepreneurial world.

ADIS Recap: Relive the highlights of the ninth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS), where visionaries and leaders converged to discuss the impacts of Climate Change and the influence of Africa this past March.

ABLE Information Session: Don't miss out on essential details about our upcoming ABLE information session on May 10th, where you'll learn all about the program and what it takes to become a part of our vibrant community.

Call to Action: We're calling on all members of the ABLE and BAF communities to step up and support our programs as mentors, reviewers, and nominators. Your expertise and engagement are invaluable to our mission of empowering Black entrepreneurs.

We're immensely grateful for your continued support and commitment to the ABLE and BAF programs. Together, we're shaping the future of Black, African and African Diasporan entrepreneurship and creating lasting impact in our communities.

Stay tuned for more updates, stories, and opportunities in this edition of the Accelerator Buzz Newsletter!

Celebrating the Achievements of Skoll Foundation Social Innovation Award Winner : Wawira Njiru

**Celebrating
Wawira Njiru**

Wawira Njiru
Founder and Executive Director,
Food for Education
BAF Inagural Cohort

Awarded 2024 Skoll Award for Social Innovation and the Lipman Prize

We at the African Diaspora Network (ADN) are immensely proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of Wawira Njiru, founder of Food for Education and an alumna of the inaugural cohort of Builders of Africa's Future (BAF). Wawira has been honored with the prestigious Skoll Foundation Social Innovation Award, a testament to her visionary leadership and the profound impact of her work.

Wawira Njiru has dedicated herself to addressing the critical issue of child hunger and malnutrition in Kenya through her organization, Food for Education. Since its inception, Food for Education has provided nutritious meals to thousands of schoolchildren, significantly improving their health, educational outcomes, and overall well-being. The organization's innovative approach ensures that children receive the sustenance they need to thrive academically and physically, fostering a brighter future for communities across Kenya.

As a member of BAF's inaugural cohort, Wawira exemplifies the spirit of entrepreneurship and social innovation that the program seeks to nurture. BAF is designed to support grassroots African entrepreneurs whose businesses address key community needs through technology and innovative business models. Wawira's journey from a passionate advocate to a globally recognized social entrepreneur showcases the power of such initiatives in empowering leaders to drive meaningful change.

Wawira's success is a proud moment for ADN and a shining example of what can be achieved when vision, innovation, and commitment come together. We look forward to seeing the continued impact of Food for Education and are excited to support the next generation of African entrepreneurs through the Builders of Africa's Future program.

Together, we are building a brighter future for Africa. Congratulations, Wawira!

Bizbash honors an ABLE Alum, Jared Wilson



We are thrilled to celebrate Jared Wilson, an inaugural alumnus of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program from 2021, for his recent recognition in BizBash's prestigious 40 Under 40 list.

Jared, who serves as the Chief Experience Officer of ABCD & Company, has been acknowledged for his remarkable contributions and innovative impact in the events industry. This honor highlights his dedication, creativity, and leadership within the field.

ABCD & Company played a crucial role as a key partner in this year's African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) held at Hayes Mansion in Santa Clara, CA. Their expertise and commitment significantly contributed to the event's success, fostering a dynamic and engaging atmosphere for all attendees.

Jared's recognition by BizBash not only reflects his individual achievements but also underscores the impact of the ABLE program in nurturing and supporting Black and African Diasporan leaders in the business world. We are incredibly proud of Jared's accomplishments and his ongoing efforts to drive positive change through his work.

Congratulations, Jared Wilson, on this well-deserved honor! Your success is an inspiration to us all and a testament to the power of leadership and entrepreneurship within our community.

For more details on Jared's achievement, visit the BizBash article [here](#).

Celebrating Olufunto Boroffice: MIT Legatum Foundry and Student Fellowship Recipient



We are proud to announce that Olufunto Boroffice, a distinguished alumna of the Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) 2023 cohort, has been honored as a recipient of the MIT Legatum Foundry and Student Fellowship at The Legatum Center at MIT.

Olufunto is the visionary CEO and Founder of Chanja Datti, a pioneering waste recycling company based in Abuja, Nigeria. Chanja Datti stands as a leader in Nigeria's green revolution, spearheading innovative solutions to waste management and making significant strides in the climate change space. Through her leadership, the company has become a beacon of sustainability and environmental stewardship in the region.

In addition to her fellowship, Olufunto was also a featured Entrepreneurship Panel Speaker at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24). Her insights and experiences shared during the symposium inspired many and highlighted the critical role of women in driving impactful change in the fight against climate change.

Olufunto Boroffice's achievements are a source of immense pride for us at the African Diaspora Network. Her dedication to creating sustainable solutions and her influence as a female leader in the climate change arena serve as an inspiration to many aspiring entrepreneurs and environmental advocates.

Congratulations, Olufunto, on your remarkable achievements and for your unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on our planet. Your work continues to inspire and pave the way for future generations of leaders in sustainability and innovation.

For more information on Chanja Datti and their impactful work, visit [Chanja Datti](#).

Celebrating Dana Weeks and Med Trans Go's Remarkable Q1 2024 Growth



We are thrilled to spotlight Dana Weeks, CEO and Co-Founder of Med Trans Go, an esteemed alumna of the first Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) cohort. Dana and her team have kicked off Q1 2024 with explosive growth and numerous milestones, solidifying Med Trans Go's position as a leader in the healthcare logistics sector.

[Med Trans Go](#) is a cutting-edge B2B technology platform that offers medical practices, hospitals, and healthcare facilities access to an array of reliable services. These include medical transportation, interpretation, home health care, delivery, and more, ensuring seamless support for their patients.

Here are some of the incredible achievements Med Trans Go has accomplished in the first quarter of 2024:

- **Nationwide Expansion:** Med Trans Go launched its first nationwide deal, significantly expanding partner coverage across key markets.
- **Enhanced Customer Engagement;** By integrating data analytics and reporting, Med Trans Go has enhanced customer engagement, leveraging insights to better serve their clients and patients.
- **Industry Recognition:**For the second consecutive year, Med Trans Go was named one of Built In's Best Startups to Work for in Atlanta, highlighting the company's dedication to creating a positive and dynamic workplace culture.
- **Successful Fundraising:** Med Trans Go raised an impressive **\$1.3 million** in their latest Seed Extension fundraising round, demonstrating strong investor confidence in their vision and growth trajectory.

The company's growth metrics from Q1 2024 are equally impressive:

- **Transaction Growth:** A 38% increase in transactions from Q4 2023.
- **Revenue Increase:** A 35% boost in revenue.
- **Patient Reach:** A 25% rise in the number of patients served.

In the medical funding space, Med Trans Go has seen significant advancements:

- **New Nationwide Deal:**The launch of their first nationwide deal with a medical funding company.
- **Transaction Surge:** A remarkable 108% increase in transactions within this customer segment.

Dana Weeks' leadership and vision have been instrumental in driving Med Trans Go's success. Her dedication to innovation and excellence continues to propel the company forward, making a substantial impact on the healthcare industry.

Congratulations to Dana Weeks and the entire Med Trans Go team for their outstanding achievements and continued growth. We look forward to witnessing more groundbreaking successes in the future.

Accelerator Events & Program Updates

Launch Announcement: Applications Open for the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE24) Program



We are thrilled to announce that applications for the fourth cohort of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program will open this Spring 2024. As a part of this exciting launch, we invite you to join our upcoming Information Session on June 6th.

This 1-hour webinar is designed to be a comprehensive guide to ABLE, providing you with crucial insights into the program's structure, eligibility requirements, application process, and essential details to help you craft a competitive application.

Key Dates:

- **Application Opens: May 15, 2024**
- **Application Closes: June 21, 2024 at 11:59 PM PDT**

We are seeking Black and African Diasporan founders of for-profit, impact-focused businesses to join this transformative program. If you are ready to accelerate your leadership and entrepreneurial journey

[Apply Here](#)

The next ABLE impact leader could be you! Don't miss this opportunity to join a community of dynamic entrepreneurs committed to making a difference.

For more information, be sure to attend the Information Session on **June 6th at 7:00 AM PDT/ 10:00AM EDT**. We look forward to your participation and to seeing your applications this

[Join the 1-Hour ABLE 24 Information Session](#)

MEET THE ENTREPRENEURS BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE (BAF) 2024

 Lawrence Afere CEO & Founder Springboard	 Kusiluka Agniwe Chief Strategy Officer Smartdarasa	 Rebecca Aime CEO & Founder Patapia	 Aisha Abdullah Bubah Executive Director The Sunshine Series	 Cletus Baalongbuoro CEO & Founder Ponaa Briquettes	 Muhammed Danso Program Coordinator Start-Up incubator	 Nasser Diallo CEO & Founder Clinic+ O	 Ghislain Irakoze CEO & Founder Wastezon
 Sr. Deborah Taziwona Jamali Director The Religious Sacred Heart of Mary	 Naom Monari CEO & Founder Bena Care, Ltd	 James Muritu CEO & Founder Progreen Innovations Limited	 Sr. Lusina Ng'eny, Social Worker, Congregation of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters	 Michael Odongo President Angaza Center	 Lazarous Siwelwa CEO & Founder Ponaa Briquettes	 Sr. Catherine Tente Site Coordinator Little Servants of Mary Immaculate	 Sr. Gertrude Tuslime Community Leader & Project Manager, AVSI Foundation, Sisters Blended Value, and Teach a Man to Fish



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Congratulations Builders! We are excited for another year of impact!

Make an Impact! Get Involved!

We invite you to be an integral part of the ABLE community. Your support makes a difference, and there are multiple ways you can contribute:



Review Applications

Participate in the due diligence and evaluation process.



Become a Mentor

If you are an entrepreneur, founder, professional or expert, who can share your time, talent and wisdom to a founder on their journey then, this the opportunity for you



Nominate an Entrepreneur

Do you know someone who you think is the perfect fit for the ABLE program? Nominate a black founder by sharing the application or sending them our way. Contact Brett Cave

Click Here

Click Here

Ready to make a lasting impact? Interested in one of the opportunities above? Contact brett@africandiasporanetwork.org to get involved and sign up today!

A large, 3D-rendered graphic of the words "Thank you!" in a blue, cursive font. The letters have a slight shadow and depth, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The exclamation point is also rendered in the same style.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Together, we are impacting the world, one entrepreneur at a time!

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to our funders and ecosystem partners!

ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE) United States



Lead
Organization



Academic
Partner



Funders



Ecosystem Partners



Create a Buzz

Wondering how to get involved, support the program, or learn more about ADN? Learn more about our ways to engage in ABLE on our website and through the opportunities below. For more information, contact brett@africandiasporanetwork.org.

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