

# ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE) United States



## The Buzz The Latest News in Accelerating Black Leaders

### What's The Buzz?

African Diaspora Network is excited to welcome you to our new monthly newsletter, "The Buzz." This newsletter features updates, engagement opportunities, and upcoming events for the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE).

**Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)** is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support startups and small businesses led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States.

If you are an entrepreneur, investor, venture capitalist, or organizational leader excited about learning about innovators and changemakers leading the way in underserved sectors, then this newsletter is for you.

### What's New?

*ABLE Events and Upcoming Exciting News*



#### ABLE Cohort 3 Application Portal is Open Now!

African Diaspora Network is delighted to announce the launch of our application for Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Cohort 3. The application cycle opens Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

**Applications are due by Wednesday, June 14, at 11:59 PM PDT.** Black entrepreneurs leading startups and small businesses that are early-stage and revenue-generating (seed to Series A) for-profit enterprises are eligible and encouraged to apply. Applications are welcome from all industries, with a preference for those that are impact-oriented.

[Apply Here](#)



#### ABLE Info Session

Interested in applying? Learn more at the June 1st, ABLE Cohort-3 Info Session! This webinar provides a program overview and addresses eligibility requirements, the application process, and program details. Register today! For more information on the ABLE program, visit <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/able/>.

[Register Here](#)



## Need PR Pointers?

ABLE is teaming up with new Ecosystem Partner, Candice Smith of French Press PR to provide a free PR workshop to ABLE alumni. The workshop will be one hour long and the first of a series of entrepreneurial resource workshops for ABLE Alum.

Clear your calendar on **June 6 at 10:30 AM PST/1:30 PM EST** and get the PR tools you need to amplify your brand.

[Register Here](#)

## ABLE Team Updates



**Debra Pacio**  
Entrepreneurship and  
Community Engagement  
Manager, African Diaspora  
Network

It has been an honor to run the ABLE program since its launch in 2021. I am inspired by all the impactful changemakers we have supported throughout. The future of the program shines bright in its mission to support entrepreneurs.

## Thank you Debra

African Diaspora Network thanks Debra Pacio for serving as the program manager in entrepreneurship and community engagement. Debra has led ADN's enterprise accelerator programs, including ABLE, Builders of Africa's Future, and Start Your Social Enterprise since 2021. Prior to joining the full-time team, she served as a content developer for ADN since 2015.

We wish her all the best as she transitions to a high school teaching career in the Bay Area for the upcoming academic year. Her full-time role with ADN will conclude by mid-June 2023.



**Brett Cave**  
Entrepreneurship Programs  
Manager, African Diaspora  
Network

Knowing that I have a hand in helping people address real community issues and provide sustainable solutions through their business that support the local economy and development is a gift, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

## Meet Brett

Brett Cave is the new Entrepreneurship Programs Manager based in Atlanta, GA.

As the Entrepreneurship Programs Manager, Brett is looking forward to amplifying both ADN's accelerator programs, Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) and Builder of Africa's Future (BAF), to wider audiences and engage more innovative entrepreneurs that positively impact their communities.

Learn more about Brett [here](#) and reach out for any questions and more information on ABLE at [brett@africandiasporanetwork.org](mailto:brett@africandiasporanetwork.org)

[Learn More](#)

## ABLE Spotlight

*Stories from Alumni*



## Jody T. Mitchell

CEO, Directed Analytics Inc.

Drs. Michael Faggella-Luby and Curby Alexander were recently awarded a subcontract for Directed Analytics' \$256,000 Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Faggella-Luby and Alexander have partnered with Jody Mitchell and Derrick Wesley at Directed Analytics, a tech company specializing in developing technical solutions to transform programs into goal attainment systems. Directed Analytics' goal is to utilize artificial intelligence to develop a program that can automate employability skills development for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ASD/IDD).



### [Learn More](#)



## Laura Crandon

Founder and President, Touch4Life, Inc.

Touch4Life is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and empower women to take an active role in breast health for life and inspire those on a breast cancer journey. Touch4Life helps to decrease the incidence of late-stage de-novo breast cancer diagnoses by partnering with health, corporate, and community organizations to provide breast health educational tools, story-sharing, and demonstrations.

Touch4Life recently launched three innovative initiatives - #BlackGenesMatter, B-FRESH(TM), and Soul-filling Our Sisters(TM). They increased their funders by 100% and their community partners by 50%.

### [Learn More](#)

## Ways to Engage



### **Join the ABLE Evaluation Team**

Help us identify the rising stars of Black entrepreneurship in the United States! Reviewers vet applications from late May to early July 2023.

### **Mentor an Entrepreneur**

Share your expertise and insights to support an ABLE entrepreneur from September to November 2023.

### **Engagement for Investors**

Investors are invited to be a part of our investment-readiness screening, participate in interviews, and attend the ABLE Pitch Day on October 26, 2023.

[Submit Form](#)

[Sign Up Today](#)

[Indicate Your Interest](#)

## 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](mailto:brett@africandiasporanetwork.org).

- **Subscribe** to ADN's bi-monthly newsletter [here](#)
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