

ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE)

USA



Chukwunonso Arinze
Founder,
Kaoshi Inc.



Emmanuel Brown
Co-founder and COO,
ChurchSpace



Toby Egbuna
CEO and Co-founder,
Chesle



Tae Lee
Founder,
Never Go Broke



Jody Mitchell
Founder and CEO,
Directed Analytics



Michael Olorunninwo
CEO,
GradientFI



Andre Peart
CEO, ConConnect



Carolyn Pitt
Founder and CEO,
Productions.com



Victoria Prince
CEO & Creative Founder,
Tori Prince Beauty



Marvin Walker
Founder and CEO,
Day Kare Health &
Transport



Dr. Kimi Wilson
CEO,
Equation 2 Success



Lori White
Founder and CEO,
Vitavate



Dear friends and colleagues,

Today marks Black Entrepreneurs Day, created by businessman and investor Daymond John in recognition of Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurship.

In celebration of this day, we are delighted to announce the second cohort of Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE). ABLE is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support startups and small businesses led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States. Congratulations to the 12 entrepreneurs joining cohort two! We invite you to learn more about these leaders and their ventures [here](#).

Thank you to all those who have made it possible for us to expand our support for Black entrepreneurs. A special thank you to our funders, who have helped sustain this meaningful program, and to our program advisory committee and review team for your dedication and commitment to identifying top tier entrepreneurs who are ready to scale. Thank you to our ABLE alumni, mentors, and ecosystem partners for your enthusiasm and engagement as a part of this community. We also thank our academic partner, the Silicon Valley Executive Center, as the training kicks off this month.

We wish these entrepreneurs all the best as they begin this journey, and we look forward to engaging you in supporting them in the months to come.

With appreciation,

Almaz Negash

Meet ABLE Cohort 2

Congratulations to the 12 entrepreneurs of the second cohort of Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship. ABLE Cohort Two is composed of leaders of impact-oriented, for-profit organizations. Their sectors include fintech, education, healthcare, health & wellness, media production, and technology platforms for events and rental spaces, employment, DEI, and data analysis. We look forward to supporting your entrepreneurial journeys through ABLE.



Chukwunonso (Chooki) Arinze,
Founder, Kaoshi Inc.

Chooki is the co-founder of Kaoshi API, a fintech pioneering open finance APIs for cross-border financial services. Kaoshi API allows third-party financial institutions gain access to cross-border financial data and initiate cross-border payments from within their applications. The democratizing of cross-border financial data and payments is important because it presents another opportunity for advancing financial inclusion.



Emmanuel Brown,
Co-founder, ChurchSpace

Emmanuel Brown, a relentless and dynamic founder, is solving one of America's greatest real estate problems as the co-founder of ChurchSpace. Since 2015, Emmanuel has supercharged the transformation, growth, and scaling of startup companies and organizations. As a first-generation founder and entrepreneur, Emmanuel is making his footprint in the faith-tech industry as a lead operator, marketplace strategist and company builder.



Toby Egbuna,
CEO and Co-founder, Chezie

Toby is the CEO and one of the co-founders of Chezie. His background is in management consulting in diversity strategy. Chezie helps companies around the world create better products, grow their sales pipeline, build more inclusive workplaces, and ultimately drive business results by reimagining what's possible with their most under-utilized asset: employee resource groups.



Tae Lee,
Founder, Never Go Broke

Tae Lee, known as the "Money Maximizer," is an international best-selling author, speaker, and trainer based out of Birmingham, Alabama. Tae Lee started her first company in 2010 and has been a full-time entrepreneur ever since. Since the beginning of her career, Tae Lee has been educating individuals on all levels. Her company, Never Go Broke, continues to educate and close the financial illiteracy gap.



Jody T. Mitchell,

Founder and CEO, Directed Analytics

Mr. Mitchell is the founder & CEO of Directed Analytics where he has led the development of the company's framework & software, 4SightGPS. Under Mr. Mitchell's leadership, Directed Analytics has accomplished education software, and local government and commercial professional services experience. Mr. Mitchell's company is currently working to introduce its software to the education marketplace and is conducting business development activities to enter into the federal government.



Michael Olorunninwo,

CEO, GradientFI

Michael is a strategic finance expert with corporate strategy, business and people operations experience championing and leading growth and operations strategies for Fortune 500 organizations in financial services, energy, consumer goods, and technology. Prior to GradientFI, he was Associate Partner at Grant Thornton Hawksworth, a strategy and technology advisory firm, where he leads the strategic finance and deal advisory practice.



Andre Peart, CEO,
ConConnect

Andre Peart is the founder and CEO of ConConnect, a justice tech platform inspired by his own story of incarceration. Andre is one of today's leaders in reentry and prison reform. ConConnect connects justice impacted people to employers and services in real time through technology. Its core product streamlines correctional facilities and case worker driven organizations by converting their manual tasks into technological workflows.



Carolyn Pitt,
Founder and CEO, Productions.com

Carolyn Pitt is Founder and CEO of Productions.com, the talent marketplace for production professionals that connects studios, music labels, and corporate brands to vetted local production talent. Immediately prior to the passage of the CARES Act, Carolyn addressed the U.S. Senate and House Subcommittee for Small Business and Entrepreneurship to advocate for stimulus funding for the film industry and underrepresented founders.



Victoria Prince,
*MPA, LE, LI, CEO & Creative Founder of
Tori Prince Beauty, LLC & the Chicago
Skin Lab*

Beauty Scientist and Chicago native, Victoria 'Tori' Prince is a Licensed Esthetician, International Educator, Continuing Ed Sponsor, and the Creative Founder and CEO of Tori Prince Beauty, LLC, and the Chicago Skin Lab. As a self-care expert, Tori

wholeheartedly believes in building self-esteem by prioritizing self-care in your everyday lifestyle. At the end of the day, Tori's passion in life is to encourage, empower and enrich as many women as she possibly can.



Marvin Walker,

Founder and CEO, Day Kare Health & Transport

Marvin Walker is the Founder and Chairman for Runn Free Technology Inc, a mobile application and software development company headquartered in the United States. Runn Free also has operations in Ghana and Senegal through international license. Day Kare Health is a medical rideshare and on-demand staffing platform that connects patients to healthcare providers within minutes.



Lori White,

Founder and CEO, Vitavate

Lori White is the Founder and CEO of VITAVATE – a premium dietary supplement brand intentionally designed to support heart health, physical energy, mental focus, and clarity. Concurrent with developing & launching VITAVATE, Lori also serves as Founder and President of APEX Quality Resources, Inc (AQR), a full-service Food Safety & Quality Assurance (FSQA) consulting firm committed to mitigating food safety risks.

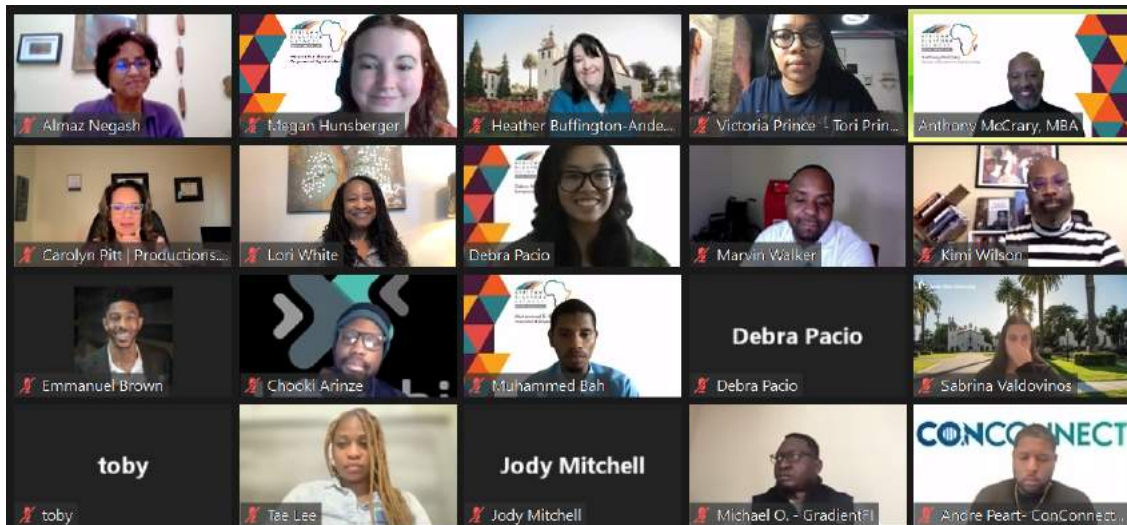


Dr. KiMi Wilson,
CEO, Equation 2 Success

Educator turned entrepreneur, Dr. KiMi Wilson blends theory, research and teaching experience in both K-12 and higher education to solve educational problems. KiMi has developed curriculum, spearheaded outreach initiatives to increase engineering diversity with the National Science Foundation, and developed a community school model. Dr. Wilson is the author of the book, “Black Boys Lived and Everyday Experiences in STEM,” chronicling the teaching and learning experiences of four Black boys.

[Learn More About the Cohort](#)

ABLE Virtual Kick-Off Recap



On Wednesday, October 19, we officially welcomed cohort two program participants at our virtual ABLE kickoff. The kickoff included opening remarks from lead team members and a warm welcome from the inaugural cohort. Check out some quotes from the participants below!

**Raj Aji**

General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, Bill

"I'm an immigrant. My own journey to where I am today would not have been possible without the support that I've enjoyed from my network of mentors, friends, and coworkers. I stand on their shoulders. Given that, we started ABLE with the goal of putting young entrepreneurs who similarly did not start off with a roadmap for success and providing them with access to resources and a network of mentors to accelerate their success."

**Dennis Lanham**

Sr. Assistant Dean and Executive Director, Silicon Valley Executive Center

"Community is key. If we are going to create change and real change it's going to take a social action approach. What we are doing at our center is moving past just learning outcomes"

**Guy Primus**

CEO and Board Member Valence

"Thank you so much for joining and agreeing to be a part of the program. It is very enriching to constantly meet up-and-coming entrepreneurs, those who will be more successful than the generations before. I'm excited to be a part of this community."



Dana Weeks

Co-Founder and CEO, MedTrans Go

"Welcome to this wonderful community of people who are here to support you. One of the things I really appreciated about cohort 1 is understanding (the team) who is here to say how can we help you? Also I gained so much insight and wisdom and positivity from my fellow cohort members. We are from across the country and originally in many ways from across the world and I think this is powerful. I look forward to continuing this community."



Christophe E. Jackson, PhD, DMA, MSPAS, PA-C

Associate Research Professor, Oxley College of Health Sciences, The University of Tulsa

"One thing about the ABLE program that has been incredibly beneficial has been taking advantage of the network, the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to grow, the opportunity to see other faces that look like yours, and being able to take in all this process, no matter where you are in your growth process."



Akissi Stokes

CEO and Co-Founder, WUNDERGrubs

"One of the things ABLE definitely helped us with was fully orienting ourselves and really honing in on what our message and mission and narrative needed to be. But also being part of a cohort that was specifically centered on the African diaspora was really important to us, that had a sense of global perspective in terms of entrepreneurship. It was really

important to us that there was a cohort dedicated to connecting us with entrepreneurs and specifically on the African continent which is something that makes ABLE really special."



Almaz Negash

Founder and Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

"We need to continue to press forward to make sure our entrepreneurs are worth investing in and nobody has an opportunity to deny them. Less than 2% of Black entrepreneurs in the U.S, get access to VC money is an opportunity for us to make sure there is no excuse for someone not to take a chance on each one of you."

[Learn More about ABLE](#)

Save the Date for ADIS23!

ADIS 2023



AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM



ADIS23 presents the theme of “Future Ready Africa.”

In the next 25 years, Africa’s population is expected to double across the continent. Projections show that a quarter of the world’s people will be African by 2050 ([The Guardian](#)). Africa has an opportunity to drive major transformations that adapt to this drastic demographic shift and build resilience in an era of disruption.

The unforeseeable economic shocks created by the ongoing pandemic, international conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, and challenges in the global economy have sparked innovations in industry, investment, and entrepreneurship across the continent. Now, ten years into [Agenda 2063](#), Africa must plan for a sustainable recovery and reimagine its path forward. What does a future ready Africa look like?

Join us as we explore trending innovations, blueprints for the future, and the interconnectedness of sectors including climate change, healthcare, finance, education, and agriculture. How do we strengthen infrastructure, reinvigorate markets, and create a healthy atmosphere for communities? What seeds must be planted to enable a thriving future for the continent? Be inspired to envision, celebrate, and make an impact upon the future of Africa.

[Visit the ADIS23 Website](#)

Thank you ADIS23 Sponsors!



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Looking to have a more active role as a member of African Diaspora Network?

Learn more about ways to engage:

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- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Support us through [Amazon Smile](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABE and/or BAF programs. Contact Debra Pacio, ADN's Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Manager, at debra@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more.
- Be a volunteer and support African Diaspora Network initiatives
- Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#)

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