

ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE) United States



The Buzz The Latest News in Accelerating Black Leaders

ABLE: A Program Tailored to Black Entrepreneurs

Black Entrepreneurship in the United States stands at a unique crossroads within this country's history. These entrepreneurs have contributed to the development of this nation for hundreds of years and yet, they continue to face a range of systemic barriers today. They persist despite barriers such as discrimination, lack of strategic guidance, networks and access to capital.

Of these barriers, the biggest gating issue is capital. Minority enterprises begin with underlying wealth disparities, with the average Black median family income ten times less than the median net worth for white families. As a result, Black businesses have less capacity to bootstrap their businesses with "Friends & Family" rounds, require increased credit card debt and access to debt capital and start with almost three times less in terms of overall capital than new white-owned businesses.

Which is why, when I was invited to ABLE's Program Advisory Committee, I did not hesitate to agree. ADN's Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program is designed to expand economic pathways and advance entrepreneurial efforts through training and mentorship that supports the adaptation and innovations of Black entrepreneurs within the current changing economic climate. This program has been tailored to not only prepare them to find product-market fit but also raise capital, build partnerships and lead high-performing teams.

ABLE has already supported two cohorts since 2022, and as we onboard the third cohort, we invite you to be a part of these entrepreneurs' journeys. The financial and economic disparities that black startups face can only be addressed when we all work together to create a brighter and more sustainable future.

Best,
Lyndon Mouton
SVP, Corporate Development,
The LongBoard Group

What's New?



Calling All Investors, Angel Investors, and Venture Capitalists

Cohort 3 of Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) will make their official debut on **October 26th at 8:00 AM** at the Forbes Family Center in Lucas Hall at Santa Clara University.

This year marks the third cycle of ABLE that has been dedicated to strengthening, energizing, and supporting startups and small businesses led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States. Since the inception of ABLE, 27 graduates have matriculated through the program.

For more information on attending the invite-only Pitch Day, please contact Brett Cave, ADN's Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at brett@africandiasporanetwork.org.

Let's Get Fiscally Fit

ABLE's newest ecosystem partner, Launch Point Lab, will provide a **free PR workshop** to ABLE alumni on **August 17th**. Launch Point Lab is a group of builders, creators, innovators, and operators – all focused on turning good ideas into great businesses.

The workshop will be one hour long and the second in our series of entrepreneurial resource workshops for ABLE Alumni.

Mark your calendars for **August 17th at 10:00 AM PST/1:00 PM EST**. Be ready to engage in a high-energy financial health workshop that will provide your business with solid tools for fiscal success.

[Register Here](#)

ABLE Spotlight

Stories from Alumni

Emmanuel Brown

Co-Founder, ChurchSpace

Cohort 2 Alumni and Co-Founder of Churchspace has plenty to celebrate.

After graduating from the ABLE program Emmanuel participated in the [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\)](#) program. On the one-year anniversary of the AWS program, he had an opportunity to foreshadow a future [ChurchSpace IPO](#) at the [Nasdaq](#) closing bell ceremony and be featured on a billboard in Times Square.

ChurchSpace is a two-sided marketplace that helps churches turn their underutilized space into on-demand commercial space for locals (just think of Airbnb for churches). Also, the early-stage company is in the process of closing a successful round of pre-seed fundraising and preparing to launch the next version of its platform this September.

We are delighted to share the continued growth of Emmanuel and look forward to hearing of continued success!

[Learn More](#)



Tori Prince

Founder & Chief Creative Officer
Tori Prince Beauty, LLC

Tori Prince Beauty has royal worthy news to share. The week of July 18 marked a significant milestone for Tori Prince Beauty as they have successfully launched Skin 2.0 internationally in Finland and the response has been overwhelmingly positive!

In addition to their international expansion, they have secured three trademarks for the brand, with two of them receiving approval just last week. This achievement further solidifies our position in the market and reinforces our commitment to excellence and innovation.

Adding to the list of accomplishments, in April 2023, Tori Prince Beauty successfully launched their first retail collaboration with the esteemed Black Beauty Collective in Chicago. The collaboration has been a tremendous success, and they will be expanding to the highly anticipated LA market later this month.

Congratulations to ABLE Cohort 2 alumni, Tori Prince!

[Learn More](#)



Jared Wilson

Chief Innovation Officer & Managing Director of Global Sales, ABCD & Company

ABCD & Company is a Marketing and events company who believes in cultivating relationships that touch lives and create a better world. "Marketing and events is what we do; a team of inspiring leaders is who we are."

This July, marks the 2-year anniversary for Jared as the Chief Innovation Officer & Managing Director of Global Sales. Success seems to be the culture of ABCD as the company has successfully reached triple digit growth for the third consecutive year. Jared has been instrumental in supporting ADN with ADIS23 event planning and will facilitate ABCD's expanded role in ADIS24.

Jared is an alum of the inaugural cohort that launched in 2021. Congratulations, Jared, we are proud of your continued

success. Learn More About ABCD Company here:

[Learn More](#)

Ways to Engage



Mentor an Entrepreneur

Share your knowledge, expertise, and insights to support an ABE entrepreneur from September to November 2023.

[Sign Up Here](#)



Attend ADIS24

Now more than ever, we have to act to make a positive impact on climate change. Join us at African Diaspora Investment Symposium on March 20-22, 2024 to be a part of the solution. Please save the date.

[Read Impact Report](#)



Give to ABLE

We appreciate your time and talents! If you would like to also give your treasure, you can donate to the ABLE program by clicking the link below and selecting the ABLE program. Your tax deductible donation is greatly appreciated!

[Give to ABLE](#)

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to our funders and ecosystem partners!

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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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