

ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE) United States



The Buzz The Latest News in Accelerating Black Leaders

Welcome to the New Year: Buzzing with Excitement!

ABLE Quarterly Newsletter



Happy New Year! As we usher in 2023, we're buzzing with excitement for the opportunities and moments that lie ahead. We trust that the festive season brought joy and rejuvenation to you and your loved ones.

In this edition of the BUZZ newsletter, we're gearing up for an eventful year. Get ready for a journey through upcoming events, engagement opportunities, and a special focus on the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS). We're thrilled to announce that distinguished ABLE alumni will be sharing their insights as part of a panel discussion.

Join us as we dive into the latest happenings, share valuable insights, and gear up for the enriching experiences that the year has in store.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and impactful moments!

ABLE A Year In Review: Impact Report



We're delighted to share the remarkable journey of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program through our recently released 2023 [ABLE Impact Report](#). This report encapsulates the resilience, innovation, and impact of our 11 talented entrepreneurs who navigated a year filled with growth and achievement.

The heart of the ABLE program lies in its commitment to diversity. This is reflected in the diverse sectors our entrepreneurs including —Connectivity, Data-Tech, Education, Health-Tech, Health & Wellness, FinTech, Legal-Tech, Logistics, and Renewable Energy. These visionary leaders have not only excelled in their respective fields but have collectively contributed to a vibrant and interconnected ABLE community.

Throughout 2023, the ABLE community thrived with engaging events and workshops designed to empower our entrepreneurs. Notable sessions included the French Press PR workshop, the Launchpoint Labs Financial Health workshop, and a transformative group mentoring workshop featuring insights from Rene Lacerte, Founder and CEO of BILL. These sessions not only imparted crucial knowledge but also fostered a sense of community and shared growth.

Here's to the entrepreneurs who embody resilience, the mentors who guide the way, and the ABLE community that thrives on collaboration and innovation. Looking forward, we are excited about the possibilities that 2024 holds.

Empowering Black Businesses: A Call to Strengthen the Ecosystem



The landscape of entrepreneurship in the United States is vibrant and diverse, yet there's an imperative need for a more robust ecosystem to uplift Black-owned businesses. The power of mentorship cannot be overstated, and the statistics underline the impact it can have on the success and sustainability of these ventures.

Recent data reveals a stark mentorship gap for Black entrepreneurs. Despite their significant contribution to the business landscape, Black-owned businesses often face challenges in accessing mentorship opportunities. An article by [Sparlight business](#) noted, that 92% of small business owners said their mentor had a direct impact on the growth and survival of their business. Yet in one regional survey, less than 40% of Black entrepreneurs had access to a mentor.

Mentorship provides invaluable guidance, sharing insights from experienced individuals who have navigated similar challenges. Additionally, mentoring provides a supportive ecosystem that opens doors to networks and connections, crucial for securing funding, partnerships, and market access. Knowing that there's a community backing your venture instills confidence, fostering a conducive environment for growth.

Beyond mentorship, active involvement from application reviewers, investors, and successful Black entrepreneurs is crucial. These stakeholders form the pillars of support that can transform the trajectory of a business.

How can you contribute?

- **Become a Mentor:** If you've navigated the entrepreneurial journey successfully, consider becoming a mentor and sharing your expertise.
- **Review Applications:** Your insights during the application review process can help identify promising ventures that align with the program's goals.
- **Invest in Success:** Investors play a pivotal role in shaping the future of businesses. Consider supporting ventures that emerge from programs like ABLE.

Together, we can bridge the mentorship gap and cultivate an ecosystem where Black entrepreneurs not only survive but thrive. Your involvement is not just an investment in a business; it's an investment in a community and the future of entrepreneurship.

ABLE & ADN Events

Unlocking Opportunities: ABLE Information Session and ADIS 2024



As we step into the new year, we're thrilled to announce two pivotal events that mark the beginning of exciting journeys for entrepreneurs and visionaries.

ABLE Information Session - February 1st

Applications for the fourth cohort of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program will open this Spring 2024, and we invite you to join our upcoming Information Session on February 1. This 1-hour webinar serves as a comprehensive guide to ABLE, offering insights into the program's structure, eligibility requirements, the application process, and essential details to craft a competitive application.

What to Expect:

- **Program Overview:** Dive into the core components of ABLE and understand how it can accelerate your entrepreneurial journey.
- **Eligibility Requirements:** Get clarity on who qualifies for ABLE and ensure you're prepared for the application process.
- **Application Tips:** Gain valuable insights and tips to strengthen your application and stand out in the selection process.
- **Q&A Session:** Have your questions answered by the ABLE team and gain a deeper understanding of the program.

Reserve Your Spot:

We encourage you to reserve your spot today [here](#) and extend the invitation to those who might be a perfect fit for ABLE. Be sure to register now for an informative session that could be the catalyst for your entrepreneurial success!

[Register Here](#)

Ninth Annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) - March 20-22

Mark your calendars for the prestigious Ninth Annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) happening from March 20-22 at the Hayes Mansion. ADIS is Silicon Valley's premier conference, uniting investors, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders on a global stage.

Why Attend ADIS 2024:

- **Theme - "Activate with Africa: Climate Change, Connections, and Action":** Explore critical discussions on climate change, foster global connections, and drive impactful actions.
- **Panel Featuring ABLE Alumni:** Hear from accomplished entrepreneurs who have been part of the ABLE program and learn from their experiences.
- **Learn best practices** from both entrepreneurs and investors
- **Global Impact Leaders:** Engage with thought leaders from diverse sectors, including finance, climate change, and more.

[Register Now:](#)

Secure your spot for ADIS 2024 by registering [here](#) and learn more at the ADIS Event Page. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of the African continent.

Join us in these transformative experiences as we collectively embark on a journey of innovation, connection, and impact!

[Register For ADIS24](#)

Ways to Engage

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](#)

Enjoy reading about new ventures and innovations? Sign up to be a part of the evaluation process and review applications from Black entrepreneurs across the U.S.

[Click Here](#)

[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

[Click Here](#)

[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.

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



Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are building a future where every entrepreneur has the chance to thrive!

In the spirit of gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks to our esteemed funders BILL, Makahakama Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, CA Black Freedom Fund, The County of Santa Clara, and The KLA Foundation. Your unwavering support is the bedrock of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program, propelling us forward to empower and uplift Black entrepreneurs.

To our academic partner, the Silicon Valley Executive Center, and our ecosystem partners, mentors, supporters, and friends of ABLE, your collaborative efforts and commitment to inclusivity have created a vibrant community where dreams flourish. With your continued support, we look forward to achieving even greater impact together.

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to our funders and ecosystem partners!

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VALENCE



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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