Dear friends and colleagues,

On this significant day, as we honor the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we reflect on his powerful message that illuminated the path toward attainable justice and equity. Dr. King's words resonate: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." At the African Diaspora Network, we are committed to embodying these principles, striving to create a world where black entrepreneurs are afforded equitable opportunities for success—where they are valued not for the color of their skin but the richness of their character and their contribution to their community.

The challenges are evident. According to Crunchbase, black-founded startups in the U.S. have struggled to secure more than 1.1% of the venture market for several years. Systemic inequities and unconscious biases among investors contribute to these hurdles. Yet, despite historic disadvantages in wealth-building and income, black entrepreneurs have resiliently generated 4.7 million jobs.

In the face of these realities, our Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program has emerged as a beacon of hope. Thirty-eight black entrepreneurs have received invaluable business and leadership training and benefited from one-on-one mentorship and a platform to pitch their visions to potential investors. The impact of ABLE is only possible thanks to the financial support from our funders like BILL, KLA Foundation, Makahakama Foundation, and others. We have a long way to go to achieve equity given the resources and funding gaps for black entrepreneurs, though we remain hopeful that collectively, we can make transformational change. Learn more about ABLE’s impact here.

As we honor Dr. King's legacy, let us redouble our commitment to fostering a world where the brilliance and potential of black entrepreneurs shine brightly, breaking through the barriers of bias and inequity.
With appreciation,

Almaz Negash
Founder and Executive Director
African Diaspora Network

Join Us for ADIS24

During this year's African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24) we will bring together entrepreneurs from the United States and from Africa at the [Entrepreneurship and Investor Forum](#). This forum will allow entrepreneurs to discuss funding barriers, sharing challenges, opportunities, and best practices that enrich and enable a beneficial ecosystem on the part of both investors and entrepreneurs. [Register](#) for ADIS24 today to hear firsthand from graduates of ADN's accelerator programs: Builders of Africa's Future and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship.

[Register for ADIS24](#)
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 for Info Session

Support African Diaspora Network

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

Learn more about ways to engage:

- Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- Follow us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram
- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) Donor-advised fund
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at [brett@africandiasporanetwork.org](mailto:brett@africandiasporanetwork.org) to learn more.
- 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](#)
- Fill out the ADN Engagement form [here](#).
A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list here.
Media Coverage

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