

# ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE)

United States



THE APPLICATION IS OPEN FROM MAY 15TH - JUNE 21ST

Apply Here: <https://bit.ly/ABLE2024>



LEAD ORGANIZATION



ACADEMIC PARTNER

bill



KLA



CHILDREN'S FREEDOM FUND



BlackRock



SILICON VALLEY UNIVERSITY

FUNDERS

## A Message from Josh Ghaim, Ph.D, Chairman of the Board



Dear ADN Community,

It is with great pride that I reach out to you today, reflecting on the remarkable journey of the African Diaspora Network (ADN) since its inception. From promoting entrepreneurship and innovation to fostering economic development both on the African continent and within our diaspora communities, ADN has been at the forefront of catalyzing change.

Over the years, we have united Africans from diverse backgrounds—both on the continent and in the diaspora—alongside friends of Africa, empowering them to unleash their full potential and embrace their entrepreneurial spirit. Through strategic mobilization of financial and intellectual resources, we are collectively shaping a brighter future for Africa.

At ADN, we serve as a bridge, providing a vital platform for grassroots African and Black entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge, collaborate with mentors, innovators, and potential investors. Our efforts extend beyond mere visibility; we are actively reshaping perceptions on a global scale, positioning Africans and African Americans as leaders, innovators, investors, and creators.

Today, I am thrilled to unveil our [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#), a testament to over a decade of collaboration and partnership. Crafted with meticulous attention to

detail by the ADN Board of Directors, CEO, and dedicated team members, this plan charts a course for realizing our mission, maximizing impact, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ADN.

Comprising three pillars supported by four priority areas, our strategic plan is underpinned by a comprehensive operational framework, designed to track progress and key performance indicators. As we embark on this journey, your continued support is paramount. Together, we aim to raise \$30 million by 2028, fueling transformative programs and fostering collaboration across sectors.

Your feedback and ideas for engagement, aligned with your interests, are invaluable to us. Should you have any questions regarding our strategic plan or operations, please do not hesitate to reach out to our dedicated team.

Sincerely,

***Josh Ghaim, Ph.D.***

Chairman of the Board  
African Diaspora Network

**50 Leading African Corporate Women for 2024**  
Honored By Leading Ladies Africa

**Almaz Negash**  
CEO, African Diaspora Network (ADN)

**Kedest Tesfagiorgis**  
Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ADN Board

**Dr. Josephine Fubara**  
Chief Science Officer, Consumer Healthcare; Sanofi, ADN Board

[Leading Ladies Africa](#) has announced its prestigious list of "50 Leading African Corporate Women for 2024," and we are proud to inform you that our founder, Almaz Negash, along with ADN's board members, Josephine Fubara & Kedest Tesfagiorgis, have been honored on this list. Now in its sixth year, the list recognizes the incredible achievements of African women leaders who are making substantial contributions across various corporate sectors.

We are delighted to **spotlight the achievements** of some truly inspirational leaders within our community. These women are not just excelling in their fields but are also making significant impacts across the globe.

**ABLE APPLICATION IS LIVE - APPLY TODAY**

**ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE)**

**United States**



**THE APPLICATION IS OPEN FROM MAY 15TH - JUNE 21ST**

**Apply Here: <https://bit.ly/ABLE2024>**



LEAD ORGANIZATION



ACADEMIC PARTNER



MAKAHAKAMA  
FOUNDATION



FUNDERS



ABLE 2024 application is open.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

---

**Register for the ABLE 24 Information Session III**

**Date: June 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM EDT/ 7:00 Am PDT**

[Register Here](#)

---

**Introducing BAF 2024 Cohort**



# MEET THE ENTREPRENEURS BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE (BAF) 2024



**Lawrence Afere**  
CEO & Founder  
Springboard



**Kusiluka Aginiwe**  
Chief Strategy  
Officer  
Smartdarasa



**Rebecca Aime**  
CEO & Founder  
Patapia



**Aisha Abdullahi**  
Bubah  
Executive Director  
The Sunshine Series



**Cletus Baalongbuoro**  
CEO & Founder  
Ponaa Briquettes



**Muhammed Danso**  
Program  
Coordinator  
Start-Up Incubator



**Nasser Diallo**  
CEO & Founder  
Clinic-O



**Ghislain Irakoze**  
CEO & Founder  
Wastezon



**Sr. Deborah Taziwona**  
Jamaal Director  
The Religious Sacred  
Heart of Mary



**Naom Monari**  
CEO & Founder  
Bena Care, Ltd



**James Muritu**  
CEO & Founder  
Progreen  
Innovations  
Limited



**Sr. Lusina Ng'nyu**  
Social Worker,  
Congregation of the  
Missionary Benedictine  
Sisters



**Michael Odongo**  
President  
Angaza Center



**Lazarous Swelwa**  
CEO & Founder  
Ponaa Briquettes



**Sr. Catherine Tente**  
Site Coordinator  
Little Servants of  
Mary Immaculate



**Sr. Gertrude  
Tusime**  
Community Leader  
& Project Manager,  
AVSI Foundation,  
Sisters Blended  
Value, and Teach a  
Man to Fish



We are excited to announce the seventh cohort of Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) 2024! This year's cohort features 16 entrepreneurs leading 100% African-led and owned businesses in Education, Recycling, Health Tech & Innovation, Agriculture, FinTech, Green Energy to name a few. [Meet the cohort.](#)

## Get the Buzz!



Yesterday, we released the latest edition of the Buzz which was packed with updates and stories from our Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) programs.

## Upcoming Events

### May 24, 2024: Celebrate Africa Day With ADN

Innovations Unleashed - The role of educational institutions in Entrepreneurship and African Technological Advancement, May 24, 2024: This virtual workshop aims to celebrate Africa Day by emphasizing the significant roles that education and the African Diaspora play in driving technological innovation across the continent. The event will explore how educational institutions can serve as catalysts for technological advancements and how the Diaspora can support and enhance these efforts.

[Click here to register](#)

### May 20th, 2024 – Almaz speaking at an event

We are excited to announce that our CEO, Almaz Negash, will be speaking at the Foreign Policy for America 2024 Leadership Summit. This annual event gathers leaders from various sectors to engage in critical conversations about the most pressing foreign policy and national security challenges. The summit will take place from May 19-21 in Washington, DC, featuring discussions with top leaders from the Biden Administration, Congress, and the private sector. Almaz's participation highlights the importance of African diaspora perspectives in global policy discussions.

[Event Details](#)

---

### May 22, 2024: IOM Event

Dr. Josh Ghaim to Moderate at International Dialogue on Migration: Hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the "Diaspora Private Sector Conversation" will be moderated by Dr. Josh Ghaim, Chairman of the Board, African Diaspora Network (ADN). This pivotal panel, part of the 2024 International Dialogue on Migration, is scheduled for May 22 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Discussions will focus on the impactful roles diaspora leaders play in shaping migration policies, fostering investments, and ensuring regular migration pathways.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

---

# ADIS24 Summary Report



The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) is an annual event in Silicon Valley that celebrates and promotes the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and their allies, aiming to contribute to Africa's socio-economic development. Targeting entrepreneurs, investors, and social change agents, the symposium offers a platform to explore significant investment and development trends, provides networking opportunities, and showcases Diaspora-led initiatives promising substantial social and financial returns. We invite you to review our ADIS24 Summary and Action Report to gain insights into the event highlights and the dynamic interactions that took place, fostering meaningful collaborations toward positive change on the continent.

[Click Here for Summary Report](#)

---



# Community Announcement



## Opportunity Alert: Apply for the 2024 Michelson Prizes - Next Generation Grants



The Human Immunome Project, in partnership with the Michelson Medical Research Foundation, is calling on the next generation of innovators in human immunology. The Michelson Prizes are prestigious awards, offering \$150,000 annually to early-career investigators dedicated to advancing human immunology, vaccine discovery, and immunotherapy research for major global diseases.

**Application Period: April 1, 2024 - June 9, 2024**

This initiative seeks to tackle the current roadblocks in human vaccine development and to expand our understanding of key immune processes critical to successful vaccine and immunotherapy development. It's an incredible opportunity for young scientists under the age of 35 from a variety of disciplines, including Clinical Research, Molecular Biology, Computer Science, and more, to gain significant support for their high-impact ideas.

Past awardees, like Ansuman Satpathy, MD, PhD from Stanford University, have found the Michelson Prize instrumental in pursuing high-risk, high-impact research. Learn more about the inspiring work of our previous winners and how to apply for this transformative grant [here](Link to application and details).

**For further details and to apply, [Click Here.](#)**

Don't miss this chance to be part of a rigorous and competitive international search for groundbreaking ideas in immunology!

---

## **Bank of America Breakthrough Lab® - Now Open for Applications!**

Applications are now open for the Bank of America Breakthrough Lab 2024-2025 program cohort. This 6-month program, from September 2024 to March 2025, supports women and underrepresented founders of early-stage companies in scaling their business models, establishing industry connections, and pursuing funding. We are accepting applications from North America, EMEA, LATAM, and APAC (now expanded to India). Apply by May 20, 2024.

The Breakthrough Lab is open to entrepreneurial teams of 2-3 founders with innovative, high-growth technology ideas in sectors like Fintech, Digital Health, Future of Work, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, AI/ML, InsurTech, and Climate & Sustainability. For more details and to apply, visit the [BofA Breakthrough Lab website.](#)

## **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](#).

**Engagement Opportunities**

**A Special Thank You to Our Funders**

See full list [here](#).



## Media Coverage

See full list [here](#).



African Diaspora Network  
 4701 Patrick Henry Drive  
 Building 25  
 Santa Clara, CA 95054  
 United States

Copyright © 2024 African Diaspora Network, All rights reserved

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please  
 (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).