



ABLE 2024

ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

IMPACT REPORT | COHORT 4

FUNDERS



LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

On behalf of the African Diaspora Network (ADN), I am delighted to share the **Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Year 4 Impact Report**. This report highlights the journey, progress, and achievements of our fourth cohort of impact-driven Black entrepreneurs in the United States.

Since launching ABLE in 2022, we've made great strides in closing the socio-economic gap for Black founders across the country. Together with our partners and funders, we have:

- Trained and equipped **55 entrepreneurs**, empowering them to bring bold ideas to life.
- Built a network of dedicated mentors contributing their expertise to support these ventures.
- Awarded each entrepreneur **\$10,000** to grow and scale their businesses, thanks to the visionary support of our funders.
- Fostered a thriving community of dynamic Black entrepreneurs.

We are deeply grateful to all our partners, with special thanks to **BILL, Makahakama Foundation, KLA Foundation**, and the **County of Santa Clara** for their unwavering support.

2024 was a milestone year for ADN. Alongside these accomplishments, we unveiled a new [five-year strategic plan](#), reaffirming our commitment to catalyzing Black entrepreneurship as a force for positive change. As we step into 2025, we invite new partners and supporters to join us in fostering the next generation of Black business leaders.

Thank you for being part of this journey,

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Almaz Negash".

Almaz Negash
Founder and CEO



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"The Leavey School of Business's Silicon Valley Executive Center at Santa Clara University is proud to be the academic partner of the ABLE program with the African Diaspora Network. This program resonates with the Jesuit Catholic value of social justice and we are committed to addressing the funding gap for Black founders. We have enjoyed working with the ABLE Entrepreneurs in Cohort 3 and are excited to accompany each of them on their entrepreneurial journeys."

– Dennis Lanham, Senior Assistant Dean and Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Executive Center at Santa Clara University

ABOUT ABLE



FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BLACK BUSINESS LEADERS

BACKGROUND

Systemic barriers translate into a steep price Black entrepreneurs must pay to become entrepreneurs. 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 resources from friends and family, credit card debt, and access to debt capital, starting with almost three times less in overall capital than new white-owned businesses. This gap rarely closes as firms mature, which may explain why Black entrepreneurs are more likely to drop out after starting a business.

One percent of venture-backed businesses are Black, at least in part because of unconscious bias and pattern recognition on the part of investors. Disconnects occur between the cost of capital available for Black entrepreneurs through credit and other debt and their ability to access it, explaining why many Black entrepreneurs who need financing do not even seek it. Black businesses are much less likely to have a formal relationship with a bank and Black entrepreneur loan requests are three times less likely to be approved than those of white entrepreneurs. Early-stage Black entrepreneurs also lack relationships and networks that could help them access funding. Moreover, most accelerators today serve a non-diverse population.

PROGRAM GOALS

- » Provide a platform for the development and recognition of Black entrepreneurs and Black-owned businesses in the U.S.
- » Provide mentoring and networking with industry leaders and open doors to potential partnerships and funding opportunities
- » Improve the overall investment readiness of impact-driven Black founders
- » Showcase the ingenuity and innovation of Black-owned businesses
- » Build a thriving network of Black entrepreneurs
- » Promote business networking ties between U.S. Black entrepreneurs and African entrepreneurs

BLACK MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

↓ 10x LESS

THAN WHITE FAMILIES.

BLACK VENTURE-BAKED BUSINESSES



BLACK ENTREPRENEUR LOAN REQUESTS ARE

3X LESS



THE OPPORTUNITY

Despite these disadvantages in building wealth and incomes, minority entrepreneurs have managed to create 4.7 million jobs in the last decade. Realized financial returns from investments in minority-owned businesses exceed those from white-owned ventures. The median net worth for Black business owners is twelve times higher than Black non-business owners. Indeed, as people of color collectively surpass white people in the U.S. population by 2040, investing in racial justice by mitigating, if not eliminating these barriers to racial and wealth equity is in fact an obvious opportunity for any organization with an interest in getting in on the ground floor of America's future economic growth and building thriving communities.

According to Bloomberg and Business Insider, 2021 marked a notable rise in interest and support of Black owned businesses following the murder of George Floyd that galvanized communities in 2020. Between February 2020 and August 2021, Black Americans became the fastest-rising group of entrepreneurs in the United States, increasing by 38%. Despite this increase, the media attention and support for Black businesses has waned overtime and promised capital has been slow to follow.



BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS
NET WORTH IS

12X THAN BLACK
NON-BUSINESS
OWNERS
HIGHER

INCREASE IN BLACK AMERICAN
ENTREPRENEURS BY

↑ 38%
BETWEEN FEBRUARY
2020 AND AUGUST 2021

JOBS CREATED

4.7
MILLION
BY MINORITY
ENTREPRENEURS

THEORY OF CHANGE

ORIGINS

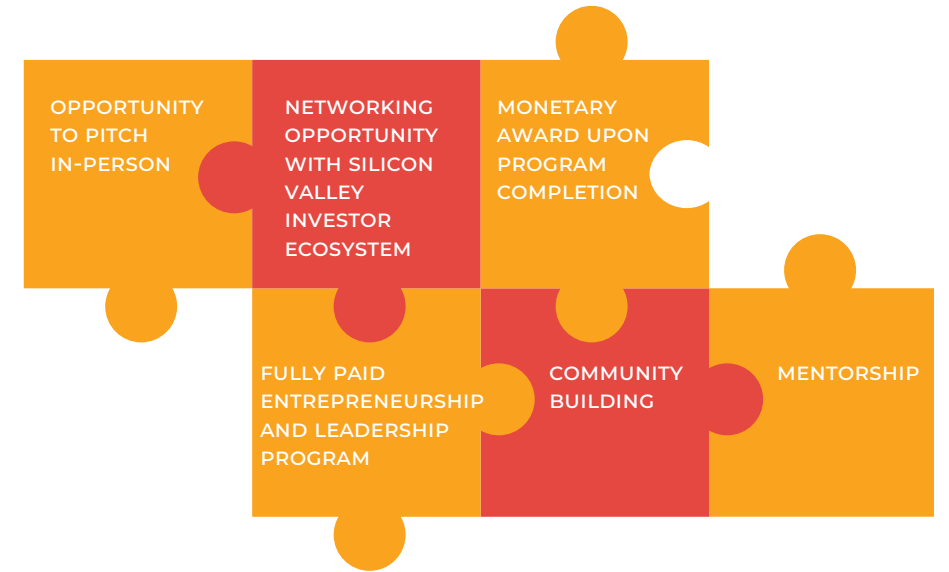


ADN first conceived of ABE as an adaptation of the Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) program. In January 2020, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation observed the success of Builders of Africa's Future Awards and pitch presentations by grassroots African entrepreneurs at the fifth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium. They shared interest in an ADN program that would support U.S.-based Black entrepreneurs through an enterprise accelerator similar to BAF. With seed funding from SVCF, African Diaspora Network sought partners from across Silicon Valley to help realize the program. Thanks to the support and insight of BILL, we secured full funding for ABE, which ADN leveraged to garner additional support from the CA Black Freedom Fund, KLA Foundation, and the County of Santa Clara to launch the inaugural cohort in 2021.

THE ABLE APPROACH

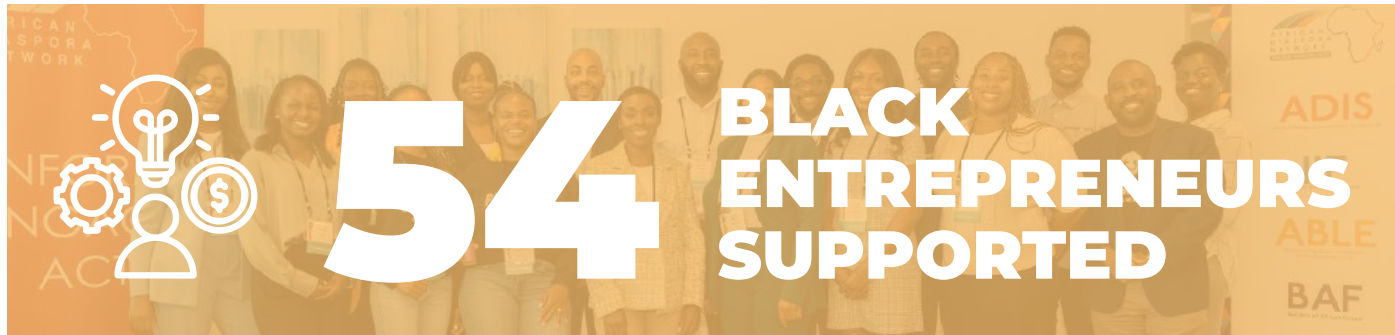
The Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program strategically addresses the pervasive opportunity gap facing Black entrepreneurs. Recognizing the critical need for ongoing technical support, mentorship, and improved access to capital, ABE stands as a transformative initiative. Leveraging the Silicon Valley Executive Center's proven global model, renowned for channeling capital to sustainable enterprises, and bolstered by leadership support and enduring mentorship support from the Silicon Valley Executive Center and ADN's distinguished network of Black leaders, ABE is changing the narrative.

This comprehensive approach forms a robust system of human capital development, empowering diasporan individuals and offering a comprehensive strategy to enhance their investment readiness for external funding.



The program equips entrepreneurs with the knowledge to attract the right types of capital and leverage innovative funding vehicles, propelling early and mid-stage enterprises toward success. Armed with these tools, the selected Black-owned businesses are poised to become catalysts, driving the creation of new markets and innovative solutions to varied market issues, revitalizing local U.S. economies, and contributing to community impact and fiscal growth. ABE is not just a program; it's a transformative force ushering in positive change and empowerment.

OUR IMPACT SO FAR

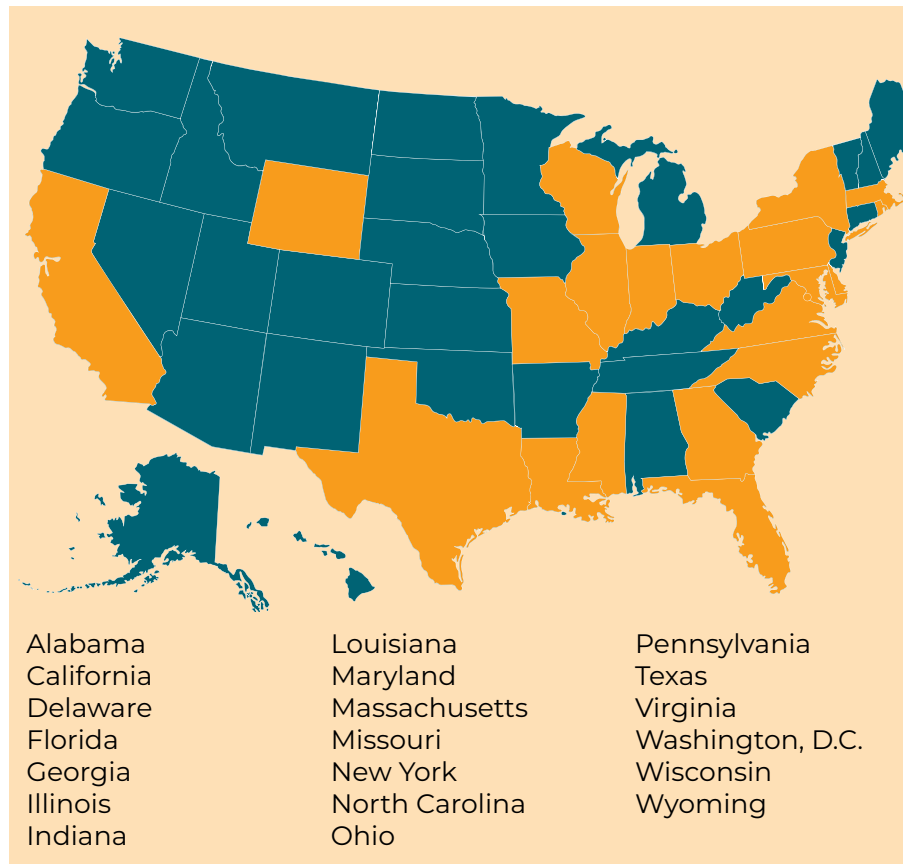


54 BLACK ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED



13 SECTORS REPRESENTED

U.S. CITIES
 **20**
 REPRESENTED



GENDER RATIO

 **23** WOMEN

 **31** MEN

 Community Engagement	 Consumer Goods (apparel)	 Food & Beverage	 Education
 Gaming	 Health & Wellness	 FinTech	 Transportation & Logistics
 Tech	 Renewable Energy	 Legal	
 Real Estate	 Insect		

A SNAPSHOT OF ABLE24



16

COHORT MEMBERS SELECTED

9

VENTURES ACROSS INDUSTRIES

10

ENTREPRENEURS FROM 10 US STATES. 4 CA-BASED



\$160k

AWARDED - THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

EXCELLENT QUALITY AND VARIETY OF ENTREPRENEURS AND VENTURES

84

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON ATTENDEES AT PITCH DAY AND GRADUATION

100%

GRADUATION RATE

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*“To be honest, I was quite **impressed with the overall program**. The communication was great, the presenters did a great job and the in-person experience was great.”*
– Seun Phillips



*Participating in the African Diaspora Network ABLÉ cohort has been transformative for Lipaworld and me personally. The program equipped us with strategic insights and practical tools to scale our impact within the African diaspora. **The funding we received has allowed us to accelerate product development and strengthen our partnerships, ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our customers.** The mentorship and peer connections have inspired us to approach challenges with a renewed sense of purpose. Thanks to ABLÉ, **we are better positioned to empower immigrants globally through innovative financial solutions.**”*



*“The presenters did an excellent job breaking down complex legal topics into **actionable guidance that entrepreneurs can apply directly to their ventures**. I appreciated their focus on critical areas such as intellectual property, contract negotiation, and legal structures for scaling businesses.”*

*“The keynote addresses were of exceptional quality, highly relevant, and had a significant impact. The speakers were engaging and provided valuable insights that were directly applicable to our work. **The content was well-structured and thought-provoking, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.**”*



MEET THE ENTREPRENEURS



COHORT 4



Akos Antwi
Co-founder
Revive



Bisola Alabi
Founder
Heels and Tech



Charles Oligbo
Founder & CEO
Sawport



Chimadika Okoye
Founder & CEO
OGA Street Tech



Cynthia Asije
CEO
Alseams



Dave Scott
CEO
Evil Genius Games



Derrick Akpalu
Co-Founder & CEO
Revna Biosciences
Inc.



Dr. Omony Phillips
Founder
Omosilk



Jennifer Kanyamibwa
Co-Founder
Plant Lady Juice Co.



Jonathan Katende
Co-Founder & CEO
Lipaworld



Laetitia Samuel
CLO
EJECS



Lena Samuel
Founder
Samuel Health



Nicole Murphy
Founder & CEO
Barter Black®



Pascal Odek
Founder
WellBeam

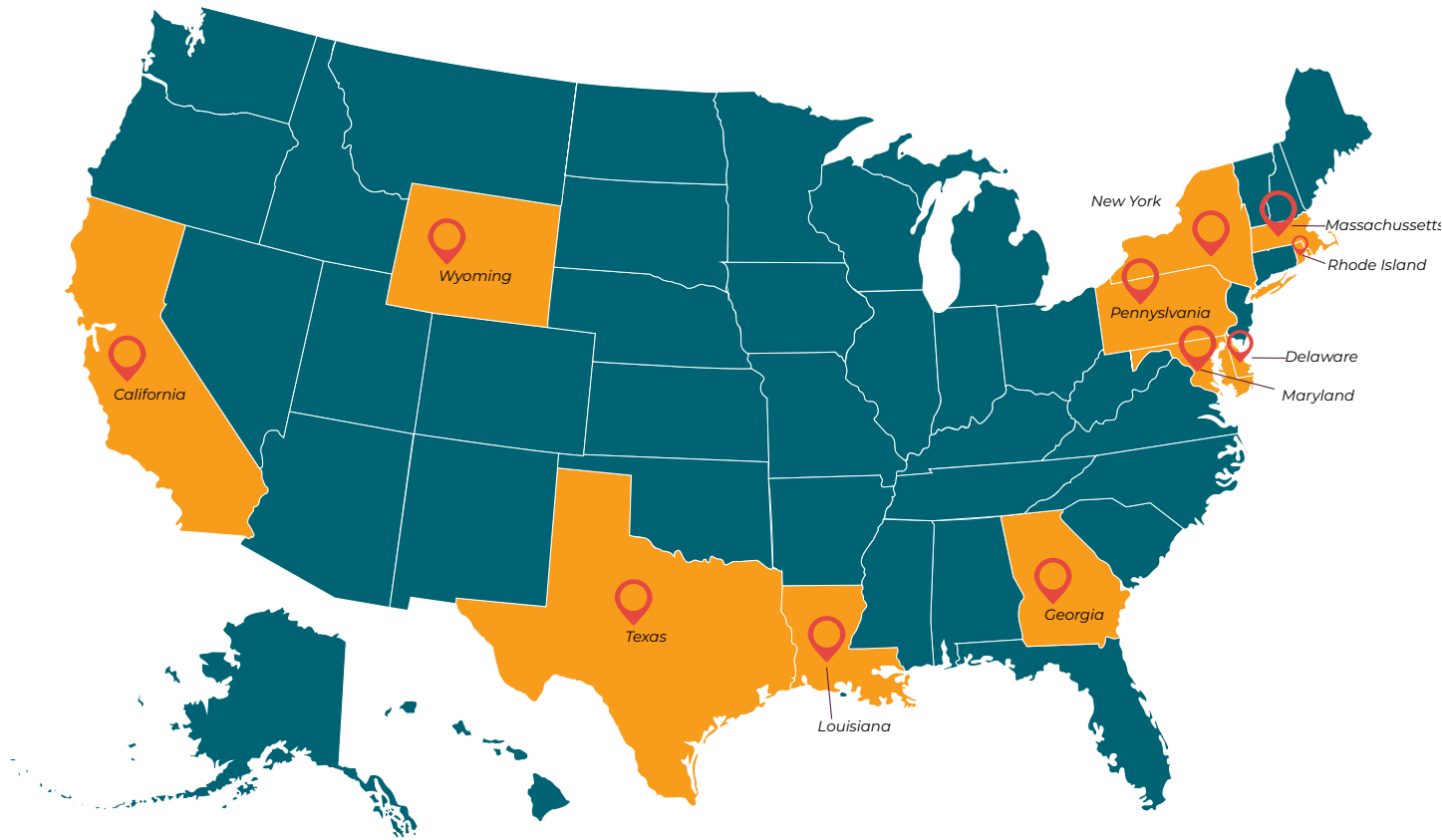


Sade Luwoye
Co-Founder & COO
Tribemeets



Seun Phillips
Executive Director
STEMNETICS

INDUSTRIES, SECTORS, US STATES



HIGHLIGHT

16 budding entrepreneurs across 10 US states.
25% are based in California.

INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS

- 
FinTech
 Supporting Africans in the Diaspora with remittances and better banking
- 
Tech
 Encouraging ecosystem building to support the New Black Wall Street
- 
Healthcare
 Personalized care solutions as unique as our DNAs
- 
Gaming
 Big movie adventures and user-generated games, all on one platform
- 
Community Engagement
 Tackling the loneliness epidemic in the Black diaspora
- 
Education & EdTech
 Bridging gaps in the education system
- 
Consumer Packaged Goods
 Trusted wellness products that are accessible and clean
- 
Sustainability
 Utilizing AI to eliminate waste
- 
Transportation & Logistics
 Introducing the first "Patented Pothole Pillow"

ENTREPRENEUR BIOS



Akos Antwi | Revive

Akos Antwi is a co-founder of Revive Therapeutic Services, and a board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. With over 10 years of experience working in various roles in both inpatient and outpatient settings, Akos has gained extensive knowledge and expertise in treating a wide range of mental health disorders.

With her leadership, Revive Therapeutic Services has established itself as a leading provider of Behavioral Health services in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Her compassionate approach, combined with her clinical expertise, has helped countless individuals overcome their mental health challenges and achieve their full potential.



Bisola Alabi | Heels &Tech

Bisola Alabi is the founder of Heels and Tech, a pioneering organization dedicated to empowering women in technology through a cohort based platform. With a strong background in technology and a passion for bridging the gender gap in the tech industry, Bisola has created platforms and programs that provide women with the skills, resources, and support needed to excel in tech careers.

Under her leadership, Heels and Tech has grown into a respected community of over 80,000 women from 25 countries that inspires and equips women to pursue their dreams in technology, transforming lives and industries along the way. Bisola's commitment to diversity and inclusion continues to drive her mission to create a more equitable and innovative tech landscape.



Charles Oligbo | Sawport Inc.

Charles is the founder & CEO of Sawport Inc, a video banking platform offers digital transformation of the physical branch into virtual branch to enable financial institutions adopt a customer-centric banking model and people-focused customer experience.

Originally from Nigeria, Charles migrated to the US in 2003. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Akron, and an MBA in Management Information Systems from Park University. Before embarking on his entrepreneurship journey, Charles led the implementation and delivery of digital banking solutions at two fintech startups -- Alkami Technology (Nasdaq: ALKT) & Bankjoy Inc (Y-Combinator).



Chimadika Okoye | OGA Street Tech

Chimadika "Chim" Okoye is the founder and CEO of OGA Street Tech- a clean tech company focused on providing alternatives to toxic concrete, while also changing the behaviors of those who make the choices and install the toxic concrete.

Chim is a tough tech entrepreneur with exit experience and corporate partnership experience. He has developed products for the government in the past and brought products/departments to market for businesses.

Born and raised in Maryland, Chim's family is from Nigeria, causing Chim to go back often and have connections to the continent of Africa, even outside of Nigeria.



ENTREPRENEUR BIOS



Cynthia Asije | Alseams

Cynthia Asije is a 3x founder and multi-award-winning entrepreneur renowned for her expertise in fashion and sustainability. With a proven track record of scaling fashion brands, using technology and Cynthia blends innovation and eco-consciousness to drive industry transformation.

Her company, Alseams, produces sustainable outdoor swimwear made from recycled polyester. Their products are free from PFAs, and they use water-based NeoPigment ink, which is entirely free of heavy metals. Utilizing AI-driven size recommendations, Alseams ensure customers receive the perfect fit, creating our products on demand to minimize waste and returns.



David Scott | Evil Genius Games

David Scott is the CEO and Founder of Evil Genius Games. David is a 4x serial entrepreneur. His last company, Laughly, was acquired by Kevin Hart. In addition he has held executive positions at Twitter and Amazon. Mr. Scott received his undergraduate degree from William & Mary and his MBA from Wharton. David is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.



Derrick Akpalu | Revna Biosciences

Dr. Derrick Akpalu is the co-founder and CEO of Revna Biosciences. His academic and professional experience spans biomedical sciences and clinical research, including roles as Associate Director, Clinical Research Scientist at Johnson & Johnson's (J&J's) Janssen R&D, Principal Clinical Research Scientist in J&J's Ethicon group, and Clinical Pharmacology Scientist at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of J&J.

He has a dual degree, Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences with a Master of Science in Clinical Research from the Morehouse School of Medicine, USA. Additionally, he has a master's degree in Biomedicine from University College London and an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry with Microbiology from Queen Mary, University of London.



Jennifer Kanyamibwa-Biggs | Plant Lady Juice Co.

Jennifer Kanyange is a proud resident of West Atlanta, GA. She has spent her multi-faceted global career in strategic operations working with world-renowned product development teams, creatives, designers and policymakers.

Currently, Jennifer is Senior Director, Project Management and Execution at a leading national non-profit focused on education and workforce development transformation across America. Throughout her career, she has held leadership roles at Twitter, Slack and Nike. For Jennifer, Plant Lady Juice Co. is an extension of the rich history of agriculture that is part of her East African heritage.



ENTREPRENEUR BIOS



Jonathan Katende | Lipaworld

Mr Jonathan Katende is the Co-founder and CEO of Lipaworld an NYC headquartered fintech platform that helps the African diaspora to remit back to the continent using their digital voucher marketplace. Jonathan holds a master's degree in business management from the University of Johannesburg and an Executive Education program certification from the Wharton Business School. Jonathan's passionate about social impact and financial inclusion and aims to create innovative solutions that connect the global African diaspora with their home continent.



Laetitia Nzingha Samuel - Owusu | EJECS

Dr. L. Nzingha Samuel-Owusu is an educational psychologist, writer, and transformative educator deeply committed to culturally relevant learning. With expertise in Educational Psychology and Curriculum Development, she has taught at institutions like Spelman College, Georgia State University, and Tiffin University. Drawing from global travels and rich cultural insights, she believes "the culture in which people learn is just as important as what they learn." As Chief Learning Officer of EJECS, she develops impactful educational strategies, and as Co-Founder of BSEI, she leads a virtual K-12 school focused on holistic and inclusive education. She also designs dynamic courses and training programs for adult learners as an Instructional Content Developer for a leading LMS. Through her work, Dr. Samuel-Owusu continues to push the boundaries of educational innovation and excellence.



Lena Samuel | Samuel Health

Samuel Health closes the health equity gap by providing vital, expanded, accessible, primary care, travel medicine, maternal and mental health to the community through continuity care, digital health and medical education to improve health outcomes while training its future physicians. We are transforming health through digital access ensuring quality primary care and preventive health reaches every home to impact health outcomes for generations to come

Dr. Samuel is Founder and Medical Director for Samuel Health. She earned a bachelors degree in Biology at Hampton University and then went on to obtain her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Rutgers Medical School) and a Masters in Global Public Health from New York University.



Nicole Murphy | Barter Black®

Nicole Murphy is an accomplished entrepreneur and the visionary CEO of Barter Black®, a groundbreaking platform empowering Black entrepreneurs to scale their businesses through bartering. With a degree from Susquehanna University and a dynamic career in corporate and entrepreneurial roles, Nicole's leadership has driven the success of multiple ventures, including HomeShare 365. Recognized for her innovative approach and dedication to community building, Nicole has been featured in Black Enterprise and other prominent media outlets. Her mission is to eliminate financial barriers for Black business owners, fostering a thriving community of mutual support and growth.



ENTREPRENEUR BIOS



Omonyne Phillips | Omosilk

Dr. Omonyne Phillips, PharmD, is the founder of Omosilk, a hypoallergenic hair and skin brand designed to address sensitive skin issues and hair loss. She previously served as Divisional Vice President at Rite Aid Corporation, where she managed pharmacy operations across 160 stores in California with a nearly \$2B budget. Her strategic leadership in immunizations, Medication Therapy Management, and pharmacy sales achieved significant milestones, including high flu immunization rates and record-breaking EBITDA results. Recognized for her innovative business solutions and servant leadership, Omo also led My Dream BIG Club, a support network for young professionals. A University of Michigan alumna and active youth developer, her impactful work continues to foster community and professional growth.



Pascal Odek | WellBeam Inc

Pascal Odek, born in rural Kenya, earned scholarships to top schools in Nairobi and Stanford University, where he studied Computer Science. After working as a software engineer in Silicon Valley, he co-founded WellBeam and serves as CTO, leading teams to develop secure, scalable solutions that reduce hospital readmissions and enhance care coordination.

Inspired by healthcare gaps revealed during his parent's cancer diagnosis, Pascal is passionate about addressing healthcare challenges in the US and Africa. He is excited to join the ABLE program to connect with peers, learn, and give back to the community.



Sade Luwoye, Abigail Osei-Tutu | TribeMeets

Sade Luwoye, Co-founder and COO of TribeMeets, is a first-generation Nigerian-American shaping the tech industry. With a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.S. in Systems Engineering, Sade is passionate about fostering inclusive spaces where people connect and build meaningful communities. Through TribeMeets, she is committed to creating environments that encourage authenticity and lasting relationships. Abigail Osei-Tutu, CEO and Co-founder of TribeMeets, is a first-generation Ghanaian raised in Worcester, MA. With a Master's in Clinical Social Work from Temple University, Abigail's dedication to community stems from her upbringing in a vibrant Ghanaian community. She channels this passion into bridging the African diaspora through TribeMeets, reconnecting people to their roots and fostering cultural connection.



Seun Phillips | STEMNETICS

Seun Phillips is the Founder and Executive Director of STEMNETICS, a STEM organization exposing elementary students to hands-on projects. Prior to STEMNETICS Phillips led partnerships to advance the robotics ecosystem at Amazon. Phillips started his professional career as a Senior Electrical Engineer at Motorola designing cell phones. Phillips went on to co-found the Chicago-based STEM non-profit, Project SYNCERE, and now serves on the board. Feeding his passion for entrepreneurship, Phillips co-founded My Dream BIG Club where he helped to build a community for entrepreneurs and inspire participants to excel in their personal and professional lives. Phillips graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a minor in mathematics.



PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

KICK-OFF AND WEEKLY SESSIONS

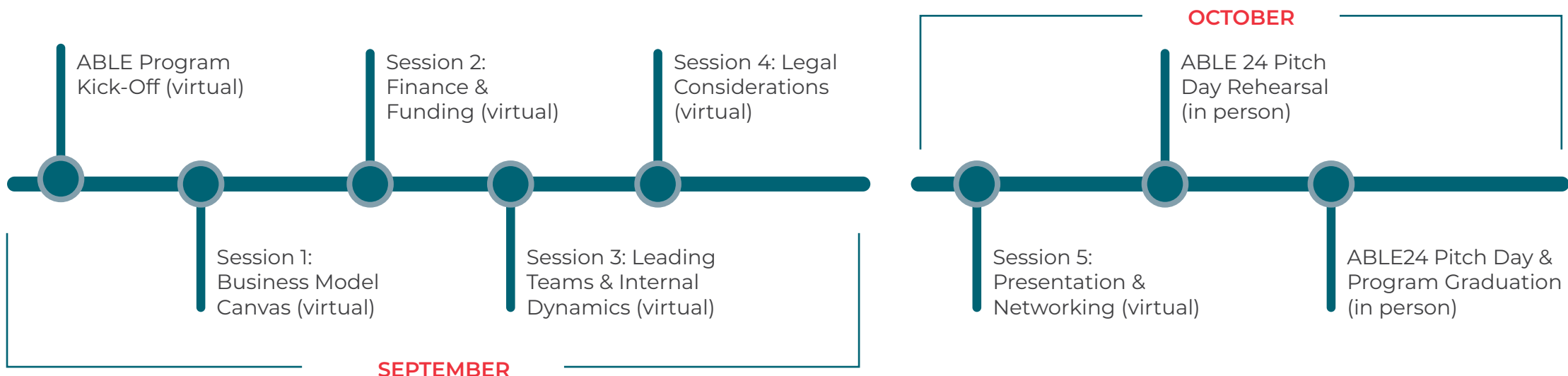
The program kicked-off in September with a virtual convening—an opportunity for ADN and LEC leadership to officially welcome the entrepreneurs, share more on the journey ahead, and to answer their questions. This would be the first time that cohort members met one another.

Over the course of five weeks, our academic partners at Santa Clara University’s Leavey Executive Center (LEC) facilitated sessions with experts in finance, marketing, law, and fundraising. These interactive sessions equipped the entrepreneurs with essential tools and frameworks to helping them succeed in scaling their businesses and bringing their bold ideas to life. For the second consecutive year, we are proud to have partnered with associates at Fenwick & West LLP for the entrepreneurs to meet one-on-one with legal experts to discuss critical issues they were facing in their businesses.

MENTORING

One of the great benefits of the ABLÉ program is the mentor-matching process. As part of the selection process, ADN meticulously identifies and selects mentors with relevant backgrounds and matches them with entrepreneurs based on their interests, and network and knowledge gaps. As the entrepreneurs embark on the program, mentors are formally assigned to them. However, as the program progresses, there are several moments when serendipity takes hold and entrepreneurs make several meaningful connections that evolve into mentoring relationships.

“I like my mentors’ profiles, and the perspective they shared as builders/inventors, especially Enita. [She] was warm, helpful and inspiring...My mentor was amazing!”



PITCH DAY & GRADUATION

The Fourth ABLE Pitch Day & Graduation was held on October 17th at Santa Clara University. Guest speakers energized and encouraged the 16 ABLE entrepreneurs, emphasizing the importance of building strong networks, sharing their stories, and persevering through challenging times. Two dedicated networking sessions provided attendees at the hybrid event the opportunity to offer timely feedback to the entrepreneurs after hearing their bold ideas.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Derrick Akpalu, co-founder and CEO of Revna Biosciences (RevnaBio), a precision medicine company, shared that **despite Africa making up 17% of the global population, it only contributes 1% to the global genomic data set. RevnaBio is changing this** through strategic partnerships with global players like Diatech Pharmacogenetics and Idil Biotech.

Chimadika Okoye, founder and CEO of OGA Street Tech, an advanced materials company, wowed the crowd with its SustainaStone, a net zero concrete, and a **sample of the world's first "Pothole Pillow", a patented reusable pothole filler that is used to quickly repair damaged infrastructure.**

Dr. Omyne Phillips, founder of Omosilk demonstrated the power of **Mulberry silk, "the queen of all fibers"** and how it has made a real difference in healing her children's alopecia and eczema.

Solving some of the complex problems is no easy feat, and so, we were all delighted when Jennifer Kanyamibwam, co-founder of Plant Lady Juice served her **refreshing juices and elixirs during her presentation.**



PROGRAM EXPERIENCE & EVALUATION

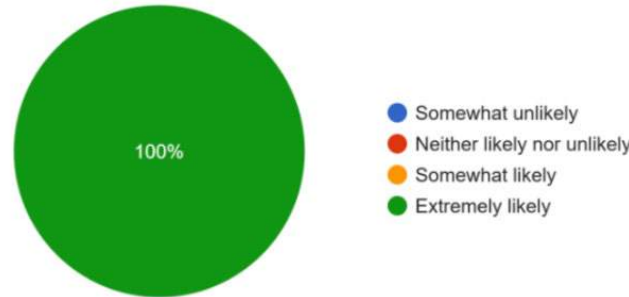
From kick-off to the Pitch Day & Graduation, the entrepreneurs completed weekly evaluations and were given an opportunity to provide the ADN and LEC team real-time feedback on their experience and progress.



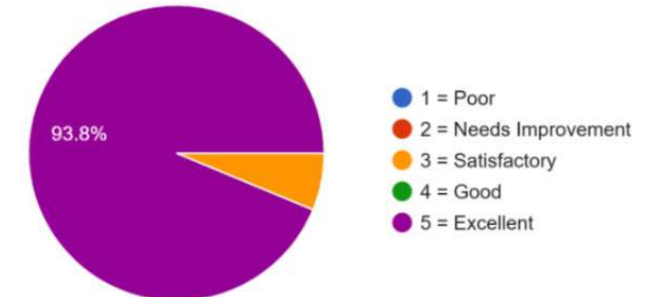
Overall, the entrepreneurs were impressed by the quality and cadence of the program. They appreciated how responsive the ADN and LEC teams were, and the opportunity to engage with so many skilled business leaders. They highly rated all sessions over the course of the 6-week program. The highest rated session, Reframing Fundraising & Being Investor Ready by Antonio Key, 87.6% of the cohort members rated it excellent. The second highest rated session was the Law Clinic by Fenwick & West which received a 85.7% excellent rating.

As indicated in the below graphs, cohort members all agreed that they would apply what they learned to their ventures and 75% are very likely to recommend the program to a friend or colleague.

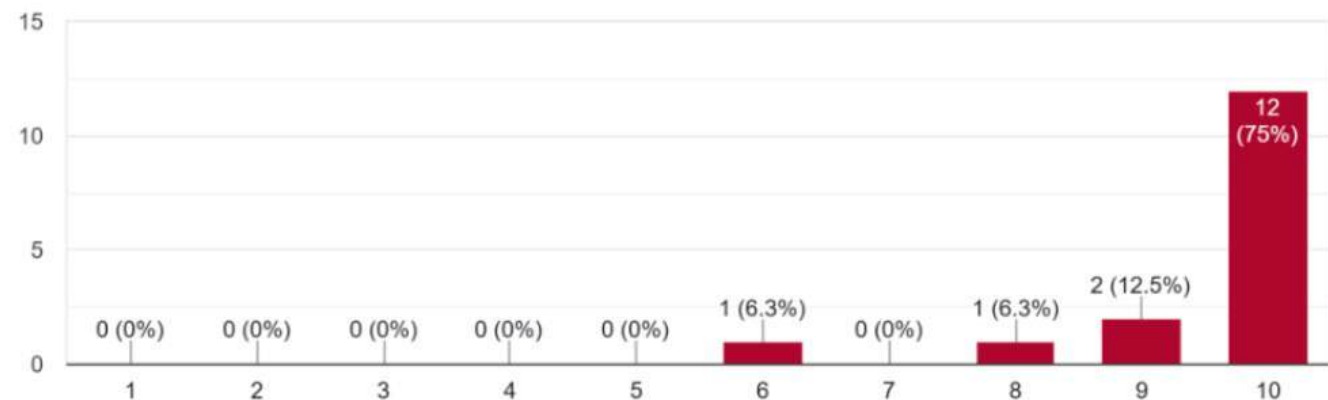
How likely are you to apply what you have learned from this program to your venture?



Please rate your overall experience of the ABLÉ program on a scale of 1-5



How likely are you to recommend this program to a friend or colleague?



WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

We are deeply appreciative for the unwavering support of our funders, partners, mentors and reviewers who make this work possible. We are especially grateful for BILL and Makahakama Foundation for their tremendous generosity and leadership in bridging the gap for Black founders.

FUNDERS



ACADEMIC PARTNER



ABLE MENTORS

Mary Adoma Aboagye, Whizzy Innovation Hub

Adeyinka Akinyede-Ashaolu, Wise Network Foundation

Kerry Jordan, Supercritical, LLC

Gitau Winnie, Kwangu Kwako Ltd

Paul-Miki Akpablie, Akos Technologies Inc.

Hussein Orekoya, EarlyBird Consulting

Afie Braimoh, SACFRUITS

Vanessa Vining, The Cultural Effect, Inc. and Coaching Life's Journey LLC

Steven Tolbert, Strategic Financial Management, LLC

Ajawavi Ajavon, Ajavon Consulting Group, LLC

Keyaan Williams, Cyber Leadership and Strategy Solutions, LLC

Engr. Enita Ese Okonkwo, The BookMarket NG and EngineRoom Design & Construction

Christopher M. Brown, The Nova Rose Group

Achraf Aouadi, WildyNess

ABLE ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

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 Knowledge Impact Network
 Launch Point Labs
 Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University
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 Segal Family Foundation
 Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce

Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 Skoll Foundation Social Enterprise
 Stanford Seed
 SVCF
 The Baobab Network
 The Lucas-Kennedy Foundation
 The WISE Fund
 Toigo Foundation UC Berkeley, Center for African Studies
 University of California, Berkeley
 MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program
 Unreasonable Group
 U.S. State Department
 VC4A
 Villgro Africa
 Vision Forward

"It takes guts and grit for any entrepreneur to overcome obstacles and succeed. For African American entrepreneurs, having some one to turn to as they confront those obstacles can be challenging. We support ABLE as they provide critical resources and mentorship to help the next generation of African American entrepreneurs succeed. The energy and innovation these entrepreneurs bring is impressive, and we're excited to support them."

–René Lacerte, CEO and Founder of BILL.

ADN BOARD & PROGRAM LEADS

ABOUT THE AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK



Founded in 2010, African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit that promotes entrepreneurship and economic development on the African continent and in the communities where we live.

ADN BOARD

JOSH GHAIM, Ph.D., Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio

RAJ AJI, General Counsel and Compliance Officer, BILL

TWUM DJIN, Head of Engineering, Stripe Issuing

DR. JOSEPHINE FUBARA, Chief Science Officer, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare

RICK LEVENSON, CTO, Rippleworks

NDEYE MAKALOU, Senior Director - Product Strategy Leader, Global Supply Chain, Roche- Genentech

ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

INNOCENT SHUMBA, US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young

KEDEST TESFAGIORGIS, Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

AGNIESZKA WINKLER, Founder, Winkler Group

MANOJ JAIN, Chief Financial Officer, SingleStore

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LATANYA MAPP FRETT, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

LOKSAN HARLEY, Executive Director of Homelands Advisory

MICHAEL MOSCHEROSCH, Founder – Periodic Element LLC

ROLAND PEARSON, Director, Economic Growth (Finance & Investment) at Palladium: Make It Possible

ADN TEAM

ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder & CEO

OMOLAYO NKEM OYUDO, Director of Programs and Operations

DANIEL HARTZ, Founding Board & Director of Finance and Operations Advisor

ROSE ESSIEM, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager

MARLINE A. JACKSON, Events and Partnerships Manager

FADUMA MOHAMED, YALI LL Diaspora Engagement Program Lead

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YINKA DJIN, Information Technology Associate

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Leavey Executive Center Santa
Clara University

A LOOK AT WHAT'S AHEAD

We're excited for the opportunity to continue this important work. As we look ahead at the new year, we're excited to launch the next ABLE cohort. We encourage you to subscribe to our newsletter and check our website for updates.

GET INVOLVED!

Join us in supporting Black entrepreneurs in one of the following ways. Your contributions will make a real difference as the entrepreneurs grow and scale their ventures. Email us at rose@africandiasporanetwork.org for more information on how to get involved.

"Fostering economic growth relies on the pivotal steps of training, mentoring, and investing in Black entrepreneurs. The remarkable diversity and talent showcased by the participants of the Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program fill us with immense pride. They stand as living proof of the potential that exists within our community, poised to create a significant impact and flourish. The ABLE program serves as a model, demonstrating how addressing the distinctive requirements of Black founders can effectively bridge the opportunity divide and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive, and equitable future for all."

– Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director of ADN.



MENTOR

Advise the entrepreneurs as a part of a mentor pair or mentor pool. We are currently accepting new mentors for ABLE25.



REVIEWER

Participate in the due diligence and evaluation process.



SPEAKER

Speak at one of our network-building events.



ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

Amplify the application opportunity to your networks and help us identify potential candidates.



FUNDER

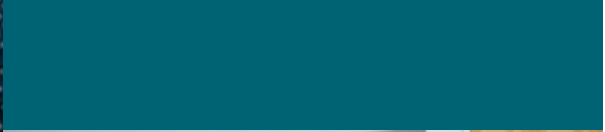
Provide support for the accelerator programs and the entrepreneurs.

[Make a gift](#) or meet with our program team to discuss giving opportunities. Thank you for your willingness to support us.



PROVIDE PRO BONO SERVICES

Your organization can provide pro bono services in areas ranging from legal to accounting to marketing and design services to the cohort. We welcome pro bono services to our current cohort and/or our alumni.



STAY CONNECTED

Keep in Touch

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Support Us

Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together.

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