

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY • HOWARD UNIVERSITY • MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY • TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

2024-2025 HBCU Startup Scholars



Student Entrepreneur: Jamiri Flint

College/University: Xavier University of Louisiana

Classification/Major: Senior, Marketing & Sales Major

Business: DIEGO

DIEGO is a mobile cultural exchange platform that uses AI technology to create simulations with immersive storytellers and interactive experiences to promote a better global understanding. DIEGO partners with universities to provide study abroad students with virtual journeys into diverse cultures and environments, breaking down barriers, and promoting global awareness from the comfort of their smartphones.

To launch and expand DIEGO, we have taken several strategic steps. We contacted 100 potential end users at Xavier University of Louisiana, the University of Hawaii, the University of California Berkeley, and the University of Southern New Orleans to gather feedback. In addition, we reached out to the study abroad faculty at these universities to understand their challenges. Based on this feedback, we developed a minimum viable product (MVP) and have already seen success by winning two Xavier University of Louisiana pitch competitions. We are currently in the process of reaching out to even more universities, study abroad faculty and students to receive feedback on our MVP.



Student Entrepreneur: Zoey Hall
College/University: Howard University
Classification/Major: Sophomore, Computer Science Major
Business: Sense Birth

SENSE BIRTH is an advanced application leveraging a Large Language Model (LLM), analogous to Siri and Alexa, designed for compatibility with VR/AR (Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality) headsets. This application continuously streams content that promotes positive birth experiences, nutritional guidance, and healthy lifestyle practices. The LLM, named Tamika, is specifically tailored to address inquiries related to Black maternal health and to deliver daily motivational support to users. The integrated VR/AR headset facilitates real-time connectivity with certified doulas, enabling remote therapeutic sessions and rehabilitation services.



Student Entrepreneur: Quincy Box
College/University: Morehouse College
Classification/Major: Senior, Business Administration Major
Business: Qtech Innovations

Qtech Innovations is a pioneering company dedicated to fueling the success of determined gamers. Our core focus lies in designing and crafting state-of-the-art gaming peripherals that surpass limits and redefine the gaming landscape. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, we specialize in developing cutting-edge gaming peripherals that elevate performance and revolutionize the gaming experience for competitive gamers worldwide.

At the heart of our offerings is our flagship patented product, a revolutionary controller featuring an innovative scroll wheel that sets us apart from the competition. This scroll wheel, meticulously designed with competitive gamers in mind, delivers an astonishing speed up to 48 times faster than traditional button presses. In the realm of competitive gaming, where each nanosecond counts, our controller bridges the gap between traditional keyboard and mouse controls and console gaming, offering a crucial advantage for gamers seeking unparalleled speed and precision.



Student Entrepreneur: Justin Pruitt

College/University: Fayetteville State University

Classification/Major: Sophomore, Business Administration Major

Business: The Juice Products

The Juice Products is an organic and vegan product line I created with a purpose to heal and inspire this generation through wellness products. The Juice products address the growing consumer demand for safe, effective, and natural personal care solutions. Our mission is to promote holistic well-being through high-quality products and empower Black communities by fostering a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Within just one year, The Juice Products has surpassed over 1000+ customers. The brand's reach has expanded beyond campuses, with placements in 5 retail stores nationwide. The Juice Products has competed and been victorious through 4 pitch competition wins. I was the leader of the Tulsa Leadership and Entrepreneurship Academy, a program focused on supporting BIPOC entrepreneurs. I am now working with Amazon's Black Business Accelerator program to scale The Juice Products and reach a wider audience. The brand's positive impact has also garnered significant media attention, by being featured in 4 different articles and even receiving coverage on the Las Vegas News. By prioritizing both business growth and social responsibility, The Juice Products is fostering a well-rounded approach that benefits both the company and the community it serves.



Student Entrepreneur: Nicolette Sims

College/University: Southern University and A&M College

Classification/Major: Senior, Animal Science Major

Business: Sims Backyard Eggs

On my backyard farm I raise and sell chicken and duck eggs to farmers markets, people in the community and bakeries. At our backyard farm, we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality chicken and duck eggs to our community. Our hens and ducks are raised in a free-range environment, ensuring they are healthy, happy, and produce the best eggs possible. We adhere to sustainable farming practices, emphasizing organic feed and humane treatment, which results in eggs that are not only delicious but also packed with nutrition. We offer farm workshops, where individuals and families can learn about raising poultry, maintaining a backyard farm, and the

importance of farming practices. My business is helping the community produce healthy and sustainable products for our customers.



Student Entrepreneur: Teiona Boucher

College/University: University of the District of Columbia

Classification/Major: Junior, Accounting and Finance Double Major

Business: Baby Box

The Baby Box is a thoughtfully curated package containing essential items such as diaper cream, baby lotion, newborn diapers, baby bottles, pacifiers, and baby clothes. Recognizing the holistic needs of new mothers, the box also includes postpartum essentials like pads and condoms, along with informative pamphlets on postpartum depression and safe sleeping practices. To ensure continuous improvement of my services, each box includes review cards for mothers to provide feedback. The goal of the Baby Box initiative is to offer convenience, support, and peace of mind to new parents, making a meaningful difference during this critical time in their lives.

In Jamaica, a third-world country, many new mothers leave the hospital without basic necessities, adding to their stress and financial burdens. With a high poverty rate and a significant birth rate, these challenges are exacerbated by a lack of awareness about available resources. According to a study, postpartum depression (PPD) affects 10-20% of women, but in Jamaica, the rates are alarmingly higher, ranging from 26-60%. Untreated maternal depression poses severe physical, social, and economic threats to both mothers and their children, impacting the broader society. My business aims to alleviate these issues by providing essential support to new mothers, informing them about available resources, and offering relief from immediate financial pressures. By easing the immediate financial pressures and informing mothers of accessible resources, it will help improve their overall well-being and contribute to a more supportive community for families whilst reducing the incidence of PPD in Jamaica.



Student Entrepreneur: Ebenezer Nyenwe

College/University: Xavier University of Louisiana

Classification/Major: Senior, Bioinformatics Major

Business: ERBD

ERBD is a proposed software solution that provides real time and specified analysis for hospital systems in the form of concise bias reports. It aims to highlight areas of bias for the patients, patient advocates, and the providers by using proven AI and natural language processing methods. It will be an AI system trained to take multiple factors into account, including race, sexual orientation, and other social determinants of health. ERBD benefits the providers, patients, and advocates. ERBD aims to provide real healthcare records for bias in ways that can increase awareness of patients, provide evidence for advocates(e.g. lawyers and activists), and create performance indicators for healthcare providers.



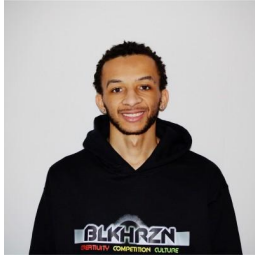
Student Entrepreneur: Deirra Williams

College/University: Harris-Stowe State University

Classification/Major: Senior, Management & Political Science

Business: Verlindas Village

Verlinda's Village is an innovative business venture focused on transforming the lives of foster care children. We currently offer educational support, including tutoring and homework aid, and mentorship to ensure academic success. In the future we plan to provide loving family homes with round-the-clock support from administrators, trained caregivers, educators, and mentors who serve as big brothers and sisters. We strive to teach children financial literacy, cooking, personal hygiene, and time management, so that they are prepared for adulthood. We also plan to offer interdisciplinary STEM programs that provide hands-on learning experiences to inspire curiosity and critical thinking.



Student Entrepreneur: Jeremiah Smith

College/University: North Carolina A&T State University

Classification/Major: Senior, Mechanical Engineering Major

Business: BLKHRZN

Singularity, our software development focus, is an AI development tool designed to help mitigate risk, reduce development time, and decrease the barrier to entry. To do this it uses Query search for code, files, or valuable data, and checks and tests any changes to the code, files, and valuable data to allow those on the client side to determine how any adjustment they make would interact with the software at large.