

SAVVY INITIATIVE

SAVVY
INITIATIVE
RECOGNITION
AWARDS

LAS VEGAS
2024



E-MENTOR

EMPOWHER

**YOUTH TECH
CONNECT**



SCAN ME

Table of Contents

**1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15**



02	Letter From The CEO
03	What is Savvy Initiative?
04	About The Company
06	Our Mission
07	Meet The CEO
08	Meet The Team
09	Our Initiatives
13	SIRA
22	Criteria for Award Awardees
24	Meet The Awardees
33	Our Sponsors
34	Photo Gallery



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

I am delighted to update you on the transformative work we're accomplishing at Savvy Initiative, where we harness the power of education, mentorship, and recognition to create meaningful change.

Our program, E-Mentor, is nurturing the next generation of tech leaders by providing young people with the critical tech skills and mentorship they need to excel in a digital world. EmpowerHer, another cornerstone initiative, is equipping young girls with the knowledge and resources to make empowered decisions about their health and futures, thereby breaking societal barriers.

Youth Tech Connect continues to inspire by mentoring 300 high school students each month, preparing them to become tomorrow's leaders through enhanced educational opportunities. Moreover, the Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA) annually celebrates exceptional Africans who significantly impact their communities, inspiring others to contribute positively.

These initiatives are crucial in today's ever-evolving society, providing the necessary tools and recognition to help individuals excel. Your ongoing support is vital to our mission, and together, we are paving the way for a brighter future for communities globally.

Thank you for your steadfast support. Let's continue to empower, educate, and uplift together.

Warm regards,

Ayodeji aGod Savage
CEO, Savvy Initiative

What is Savvy Initiative?

Savvy Initiative harnesses the power of education and mentorship to unearth opportunities for individuals that they never thought possible.

Savvy Initiative is a non-profit on a mission to empower lives through knowledge, community, and recognition. Our diverse programs, including "eMentor" connecting people worldwide, "Youth Tech Connect" inspiring high schoolers, and "empowHER" supporting young girls in Nigeria, nurture talent and drive positive change.

Additionally, we host the "Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA)" to honor excellence. Together, we celebrate brilliance, foster growth, and create a brighter future.

Through the initiative's programming and events, we aim to be a beacon of African pride both locally and globally.



About The Company

Savvy Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2015 with a clear and ambitious mission: to empower lives through knowledge, community, and recognition. Our journey began from the ground up, driven by the belief that education and mentorship are powerful tools that can unlock opportunities and transform lives.

Since its inception, Savvy Initiative has been dedicated to fostering talent, inspiring growth, and celebrating excellence within various communities. We offer a range of programs designed to connect, educate, and empower individuals. One of our flagship programs, "eMentor," provides a platform for people worldwide to receive invaluable guidance and support from experienced mentors. This program is designed to bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement, offering personalized mentorship that helps individuals navigate their professional and personal journeys.

Another key initiative, "Youth Tech Connect," aims to inspire high school students to explore and excel in technology fields. By providing resources, workshops, and mentorship, we encourage young minds to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world.

"empowHER" is our program specifically focused on supporting young girls in Nigeria. This initiative provides educational resources, mentorship, and empowerment workshops to help young girls realize their potential and achieve their dreams. By addressing the unique challenges faced by girls in Nigeria, empowHER aims to foster a generation of confident, capable, and empowered women leaders.

About The Company

In addition to our educational programs, we proudly host the "Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA)," an annual event that honors and celebrates excellence within the community. SIRA shines a spotlight on individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields, ensuring that their efforts are recognized and celebrated. This event not only highlights the achievements of exceptional individuals but also inspires others to strive for excellence in their endeavors.

Through our diverse programming and events, Savvy Initiative aims to be a beacon of African pride both locally and globally. We are committed to creating a brighter future by celebrating brilliance, fostering growth, and empowering communities. Our vision is to build a world where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Join us in our journey to empower lives and inspire change. Together, we can create a community that nurtures potential, celebrates achievement, and transforms dreams into reality. Savvy Initiative is more than an organization; it is a movement dedicated to making a lasting impact on the world.



OUR MISSION

“To catalyze positive change and empowerment within communities, Savvy Initiative designs and implements innovative programs that nurture minds, fostering growth, knowledge, and resilience while celebrating the African genius both locally and internationally.”

OUR VISION

“We envision a world where Savvy Initiative stands as a beacon of empowerment, uniting diverse communities, and fostering growth, knowledge, and resilience for all.”

Impact

Ultimately, our vision is to drive tangible impact and positive change. Whether it's through raising awareness, mobilizing resources, or inspiring action, we measure our success by the real-world outcomes we help to achieve.

Empowerment

We envision a world where every individual, regardless of gender, background, or circumstance, has the opportunity to unlock their full potential.

Education

We believe in the transformative power of education to drive personal and societal advancement.

Recognition

We are committed to celebrating excellence, leadership, and positive contributions to society.

Collaboration

We recognize that no single entity can solve the complex challenges facing our world today. We are dedicated to fostering collaboration, partnership, and collective action.

In pursuit of this vision, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, ethical conduct, and social responsibility. Together with our supporters, contributors, and partners, we look forward to shaping a brighter, more equitable, and sustainable future for all.



Meet The CEO

THE VISIONARY OF A YOUNG DREAMER

Ayodeji Agod Savage graduated with a BSc in Mass Communication & Media Technology from Lead City University in 2014. He obtained certifications including PMP, Agile Scrum Master, SAFe 5.1 PO/PM, and Change Management Practitioner from 2015 to 2022.

An experienced project manager skilled in Scrum and Agile methods, Ayodeji has shared his expertise with financial institutions and actively contributes to the community through volunteering at homeless shelters, supporting halfway homes, mentoring young boys, and assisting group homes for individuals with IDD.

However, Ayodeji's contributions aren't confined to these acts of service alone. Since 2011, he's been the driving force behind Savvy Initiative. This initiative continues to shape the futures of hundreds of students monthly, instilling values of hygiene, societal responsibility, mentorship, and the importance of positive role models.

Ayodeji's entry into the NFP sector is a natural progression to support his passion projects collectively. He aims to leverage like-minded individuals to make impactful community changes. Apart from work and philanthropy, he enjoys books, documentaries, and nature for solace and grounding.

Ayodeji Savage

MEET THE TEAM



Ayodeji Agod Savage
CEO



Hassanat Ohiare
Advisory Board Member



Dr Soul
Marketing and Media



**Williams Charles
Olubunmi**
EmpowHer Program Assistant



Avigail Schondorf
Strategy and Marketing
Consultant



Ozzie Kadiri
Web Team Liaison



Miriam Muoneme
Events Liaison



**Mobolaji Babatunde
Yemitan**
EmpowHer Program Assistant

OUR INITIATIVES





empowHER by Savvy Initiative is a program in Nigeria empowering high school girls with knowledge, tools, mentorship, and essential items. It focuses on education, personal growth, and empowerment through discussions and mentorship, aiming to nurture potential and instill self-belief in young girls for a brighter future.



Opportunity for Improvement

Public schools face challenges with female students' hygiene due to lack of menstrual products and clean restroom facilities, leading to health issues and academic setbacks. Additionally, schools lack mental empowerment programs, impacting girls' self-confidence and personal growth.

Impact

Addressing these fundamental issues not only improves the well-being of these girls but also empowers them to unlock their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society.

Solution Statement

Savvy Initiative's empowHER program is designed to tackle these challenges head-on by providing essential hygiene products and promoting mental empowerment among 400 female students in government high schools across Nigeria Monthly. Through this program, we aim to break down the barriers that hinder these young girls from realizing their full potential and creating a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Savvy Initiative's Youth Tech Connect empowers 300 Nigerian high school students with digital literacy skills, guiding them to explore opportunities online through mentorship for personal and academic growth.

Opportunity for Improvement

Many Nigerian high school students face barriers to success in the digital age due to limited internet access, lack of digital literacy, and inadequate mentorship on utilizing the internet for self-sustainability.

Impact

Youth Tech Connect is not just about technology; it's a pathway to a brighter, more digitally inclusive future for the youth of Nigeria.

Solution Statement

Savvy Initiative's Youth Tech Connect program is the solution to these challenges. By providing mentoring and education to 300 high school students each month, we are bridging the digital divide and empowering the youth of Nigeria. Through this program, we equip promising students with essential digital skills, expose them to valuable online resources, and inspire them to harness the internet for self-sustainability. As an added incentive, some students receive tablets and laptops to enhance their digital learning experience, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed in the digital age.





eMentor is an initiative promoting internet empowerment through inclusive webinars on various topics. It aims to guide diverse individuals in harnessing the internet's potential for self-sufficiency and growth, connecting with 100 people monthly via social media to transcend boundaries and share knowledge globally.



Opportunity for Improvement

In the digital era, many individuals, especially those lacking exposure or guidance, miss opportunities for personal growth and improved livelihoods due to a knowledge gap on leveraging the internet positively.

Impact

Our mission is straightforward yet profound: to equip individuals with the digital skills and knowledge they need to thrive in today's digital era.

Solution Statement

Savvy Initiative's eMentor program provides mentorship and guidance through webinars on platforms like Zoom and Instagram to empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds in the digital age. The program aims to bridge the digital literacy gap, enabling personal growth, entrepreneurship, and career advancement by connecting participants with mentors and fostering a supportive community.

Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA) is an esteemed awards ceremony dedicated to honoring individuals of African heritage for their outstanding achievements and contributions across diverse fields, such as business, arts, culture, social advocacy, science, and education, on a global stage.

Opportunity

A stark recognition gap exists for Africans in the diaspora. While entertainment and sports achievements gain attention, many Africans excel in fields like science, tech, innovation, and the arts, often unnoticed. This narrow view hinders appreciation of their diverse, profound contributions across disciplines.

Solution Statement

Our goal is to bridge this gap with an annual event celebrating the achievements of Africans in the diaspora across diverse fields. We highlight excellence in science, technology, innovation, and the arts, fostering appreciation for their varied contributions. By magnifying these accomplishments, we aim to reshape the narrative and inspire future generations to excel across all sectors. Our goal is to bridge this gap with an annual event celebrating the achievements of Africans in the diaspora across all sectors.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Recognize Achievement

The SIRA Awards aim to honor and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Africans in the diaspora. By shining a spotlight on their accomplishments across various fields, we acknowledge their hard work, dedication, and contributions to global progress, ensuring they receive the recognition they deserve.

Facilitate Networking

SIRA provides a unique platform for attendees to connect with like-minded professionals, industry leaders, and mentors. By fostering an environment of collaboration and networking, we help build relationships that can lead to new opportunities, partnerships, and personal growth.

Inspire Aspirations

Our mission is to inspire future generations by showcasing the success stories of outstanding individuals. By highlighting their journeys and achievements, we encourage young Africans to pursue their passions and strive for excellence, believing in their potential to make a significant impact.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Raise Awareness

Raise Awareness One of our key objectives is to raise awareness about the diverse and profound contributions of Africans in various sectors. Through this event, we aim to broaden perceptions and challenge stereotypes, promoting a more inclusive understanding of African excellence.

Create Lasting Impact

We strive to create a lasting impact by not only recognizing achievements but also by motivating continuous improvement and innovation. Our goal is to leave a positive, enduring influence on the individuals and communities we celebrate, encouraging ongoing success and development.

Promote Cultural Appreciation

The SIRA Awards promote cultural appreciation by celebrating the rich heritage and diverse talents of Africans. By honoring their contributions to arts, science, technology, and more, we foster a deeper appreciation of African culture and its global significance.

SIRA AWARD CATEGORIES



THIS IS
SIRA
WE SEE YOU

AWARD CATEGORIES



PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS (NILE)

The Nile, as the world's longest river, symbolizes the far-reaching and life-sustaining impact of philanthropy, mirroring the river's nurturing presence across continents.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS (GIZA)

Giza represents monumental accomplishments. It's a symbol of human ingenuity and dedication. We've chosen Giza to signify outstanding triumphs that make us tall and proud.



LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT (KILIMANJARO)

Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak and an enduring landmark. It represents a lifetime of achievement, signifying the pinnacle of one's career or contributions.



HONORARY AWARD (BAOBAB)

The Baobab, the Tree of Life, represents resilience and sustenance. Echoing the Baobab's role, this award recognizes lasting contributions to community and society.



HISTORY MAKER (IROKO)

The Iroko tree is revered in African cultures as a symbol of strength, wisdom, and longevity. This award highlights individuals who've made history and left a legacy.



ENTERTAINMENT (SERENGETI)

The Serengeti, diversely vibrant, mirrors entertainment's dynamic spirit. We celebrate those who bring us joy and excitement reminiscent of the Serengeti's lively ecosystem.

SIRA AWARD CATEGORIES

Unveiling the Essence of SIRA Awards: Celebrating African Excellence

In the heart of the Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA), each award category holds a deep symbolic connection to Africa's rich heritage and natural wonders. These awards not only recognize the outstanding contributions of Africans in the diaspora but also reflect the profound attributes of some of Africa's most significant landmarks and elements of nature. Here, we explore the significance behind each award category, celebrating the indomitable spirit and impact of our honorees who, like these African symbols, have left an indelible mark on the world.

Philanthropic Endeavors (Nile)

The Nile, the lifeblood of Egypt and the longest river in the world, symbolizes sustenance, connection, and life itself. It traverses multiple countries, bringing prosperity and sustenance to millions. The Philanthropic Endeavors Award, represented by the Nile, honors individuals whose charitable actions have nurtured and supported communities, echoing the river's enduring flow and its essential support of life across nations.



Honorary Award (Baobab)

The Baobab tree, often called the "Tree of Life," stands as a resilient sentinel across the African savannah. Renowned for its longevity and utility, it serves as a gathering place, a source of nourishment, and a symbol of community and resilience. The Honorary Award recognizes individuals who, like the Baobab, support life through their enduring and multifaceted contributions to society.



SIRA AWARD CATEGORIES

Outstanding Achievements (Giza)

The Pyramids of Giza, one of the most magnificent and enduring architectural feats in the world, represent human ingenuity and the legacy of ancient civilizations. The Outstanding Achievements Award is symbolized by these pyramids, celebrating those who have achieved monumental success in their fields, constructing foundations that will endure throughout history.



Entertainment (Serengeti)

The Serengeti is synonymous with vibrant diversity and dynamic ecosystems, renowned for its annual migration of wildebeest and other creatures. It is a place of growth, survival, and natural beauty. This award acknowledges the luminaries in the entertainment industry who bring a spectrum of joy, creativity, and vibrancy, enriching lives much like the Serengeti enlivens the African landscape



SIRA AWARD CATEGORIES

Lifetime Achievement (Kilimanjaro)

Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, is a symbol of towering achievement and enduring challenge. The Lifetime Achievement Award, represented by this majestic mountain, honors individuals who have reached the pinnacle of their careers and, in doing so, have set benchmarks of excellence and commitment in their professional and personal lives.



History Maker (Iroko)

The Iroko tree is known for its strength, longevity, and cultural significance in various African traditions where it is often seen as sacred. The History Maker Award, represented by the Iroko, is bestowed upon individuals who have carved out a significant path in history, establishing a legacy that will provide shelter and inspiration for future generations.



CRITERIA FOR SELECTING AWARDEES

ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPACT

Awardees are chosen for exceptional achievements and impactful contributions in their fields. Selection criteria include tangible accomplishments, exceeding expectations, and creating positive outcomes in communities, industries, or organizations.

ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Honoring advocates from marginalized groups who go beyond personal interests to promote equity, inclusivity, social justice, diversity, and community upliftment.

POSITIVE REPRESENTATION

Individuals selected for awards demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities by inspiring and influencing others through vision, integrity, motivation, and guidance towards common goals. Criteria include leading initiatives, driving change, and mentoring peers as a powerful example.

INNOVATIONS AND CREATIVITY

We celebrate individuals who introduce innovative solutions, demonstrate originality, and forward-thinking. Recognizing those who bring new ideas, products, or methods to transform their fields and address challenges uniquely, showcasing creativity, risk-taking, and thinking outside the box for significant advancements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We value awardees engaged in community service and fostering communal well-being through volunteerism, collaboration, and civic involvement. Their actions should demonstrate a genuine commitment to building stronger communities.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Recognizing individuals who have overcome adversity, demonstrating resilience and determination across personal, professional, or societal challenges. Their stories inspire others to persevere and strive for excellence.

The Mayor of Las Vegas Endorses SIRA



CAROLYN G. GOODMAN
MAYOR



*From the Office of
Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman*

Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards Inaugural Event

JULY 20, 2024

Dear Honorees and Guests:

Welcome to Las Vegas, America's most dynamic, entertaining, and intriguing city! As you gather at the Keep Memory Alive Event Center to celebrate exceptional contributions in educational and entrepreneurial support, I extend congratulations to all participants for your diligence, dedication and hard work. The Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA) aims to celebrate the remarkable achievements of individuals impacting African communities positively both locally and globally. This celebration highlights individual excellence while also serving as a beacon of inspiration and a network-fostering event for future generations.

While you are here, I hope you also have an opportunity to explore Las Vegas, which continues to capture the world's imagination as the city where anything is possible. With world-class hotels, award-winning restaurants, luxurious spas, fantastic shopping, the finest golf courses and spectacular entertainment, Las Vegas remains one of the most electrifying destinations in the world.

At its heart, Las Vegas is all about making sure residents and visitors are well taken care of, treated courteously and shown a great time. Beyond the neon of the fabulous Strip and the Fremont Street Experience there is another Las Vegas--one in which we are building a world-class city featuring the best in arts, culture, sporting opportunities and quality medical care. The new Smith Center for the Performing Arts has set a high standard for art and culture in our city, and I encourage everyone to take in a concert or Broadway show at this magnificent venue. Our award-winning museums, including the Mob Museum, the Neon Museum and Discovery Children's Museum, provide enjoyment and learning opportunities for all. The nearby, dynamic Fremont East Entertainment District is filled with exciting taverns, restaurants and music venues.

Our city also offers beautiful weather and outdoor activities. From top class golfing, to opportunities for world-class hiking and rock climbing at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, to skiing at Mount Charleston, or a visit to the awe-inspiring Hoover Dam at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Las Vegas is the place to be.

I want to thank you for choosing Las Vegas and look forward to seeing you around town. We know you will have a fabulous time enjoying our great city and everything it has to offer. Now what are you waiting for? The party has already started! Please accept my best wishes for an uplifting, joyful, informative and memorable gathering.

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MEET THE 2024 AWARDEES



Almaz Negash



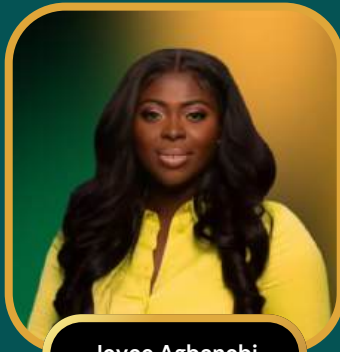
Coach J



Gabriel Olokunwolu



Irene Xanderena



Joyce Agbanobi



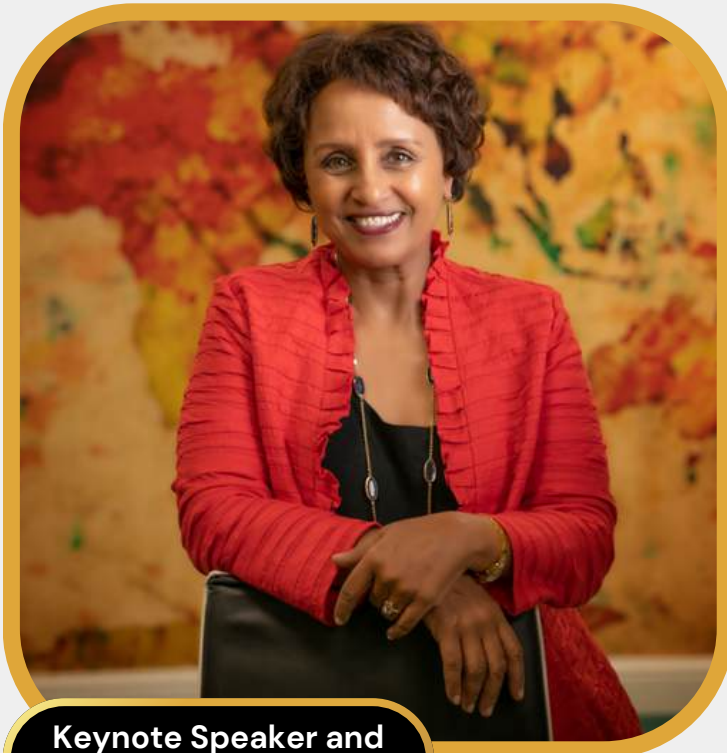
Bola Adeniyi



Joseph Hackett



Femi Ojo



**Keynote Speaker and
Award recipient**

ALMAZ NEGASH

*CEO & Founder, African
Diaspora Network*

***The 1st Journal
By Estelle Darcy
24 September, 2014***

For over a decade, Almaz Negash, the founder and executive director of the African Diaspora Network (ADN), has been a pivotal force in empowering entrepreneurs and innovators of African descent in the U.S. and across Africa. With her roots in Eritrea and a current base in California's Bay Area, Negash's work has significantly impacted both local and international communities.

Recently appointed to President Joe Biden's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement (PAC-ADE), Negash is poised to extend her influential efforts to even broader horizons. She envisions PAC-ADE as a vital conduit that enhances the ties between the U.S. and African nations, turning the diaspora into a powerful bridge that fosters mutual growth and understanding.

Negash's leadership at ADN, located in Santa Clara, Silicon Valley, has always been marked by a commitment to unite and elevate people through entrepreneurship and investment. Her efforts are recognized far beyond the tech-centric confines of the Bay Area, influencing policies and practices that support Black entrepreneurs both domestically and abroad.

Her role on the inaugural advisory group, which serves until 2025, underscores her dedication to transforming the landscape for Black businesses by addressing systemic challenges like access to funding. This initiative aligns with the broader commitments made during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, aiming to strengthen global partnerships and democratic principles as emphasized by Vice President Kamala Harris.

With Africa's rich resources and a burgeoning young population, Negash believes the continent is key to the future. Her optimism is supported by her ambitious goals for ADN, including a notable partnership with Arizona State University to manage a substantial USAID grant. This collaboration aims to empower African youth with education, tools, and networks needed for substantial growth.

Under her stewardship, ADN has also championed the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship program, culminating in significant grants to emerging Black entrepreneurs, fostering community building, mentorship, and skills development.

As she leads ADN into the future, Negash continues to champion the cause of the African diaspora, illustrating the profound impact that thoughtful, engaged leadership can have on global communities. Her work not only connects but also uplifts, making her a true ambassador of progress and unity across continents.



Nile Award Recipient

COACH J

*The Multifaceted Journey
of a Clinical Medicine and
IT Innovator*

***“Bridging Technology and
Humanitarianism”***

In the intersecting realms of Clinical Medicine and IT, stands a leader who began his career deeply entrenched in general practice and pediatrics. After fine-tuning his medical expertise with postgraduate studies at Brighton and Sussex Medical School in England and further education in the USA, he ventured into the burgeoning field of health informatics, marking the beginning of a transformative journey at the nexus of healthcare innovation and technology.

Now, with over a decade in healthcare and patient-centric software development, he leads product development in pharmacovigilance at a prominent pharmaceutical company. Managing a team that executes 10-20 significant global software projects annually, his work is pivotal in enhancing patient care and medical outcomes worldwide.

Beyond his professional pursuits, he directs CarpeDiem LLC, an IT Education & Consultancy Firm renowned for its initiatives like CarpeDiem Scrum and Scrum Vibes. These platforms not only train individuals in Project Management and Agile methodologies but also facilitate substantial career transitions, affecting over 200 job placements. Scrum Vibes further extends its influence through humanitarian outreach across four continents, reinforcing his belief in the transcendence of humanity through kindness.

CarpeDiem's impact is evident in stories of profound transformation: from financial instability to six-figure earnings, from caseworkers to property owners, and from non-technical backgrounds to IT leadership roles. These narratives not only highlight career advancement but also the broader socio-economic upliftment facilitated by his initiatives.

His commitment extends to advocating for sexual health and rights, where his efforts have led to policy changes and provided a platform for individuals to share and heal from sexual trauma. Moreover, his work in Nigeria through various community outreach programs underscores his dedication to improving healthcare access, supporting education, and bolstering small businesses.

Inspired by the stoic principles of Marcus Aurelius, he leads with a "Carpe Diem" spirit, seizing each day to foster change and resilience. His philosophy is to inspire, lead, and make a lasting impact, making him not just a professional leader but a community champion. Connect and engage with his transformative journey through CarpeDiem Scrum, Scrum Vibes, and his ongoing initiatives that redefine the boundaries of what is possible in the confluence of technology and humanistic action.



Nile Award Recipient

GABRIEL OLOKUNWOLU

*"Visionary Tech CEO,
Innovator, Mentor, Community
Builder, and Job Creator"*

***"Pioneering Technology and
Empowerment"***

Meet Gabriel Olokunwolu, the dynamic CEO and Co-founder of Techchak, an innovative AI-powered platform designed to streamline the creation and management of courses, coaching sessions, and online communities for knowledge experts. Based in Dallas, Texas, Gabriel is not only a visionary entrepreneur but also an engineer whose educational background in economics belies his deep passion for technology.

Gabriel's journey into tech was fueled by an insatiable curiosity and a self-starter mentality; he taught himself coding and various tech skills through online resources like YouTube, blogs, and extensive research. This self-directed learning path led to a plethora of certifications, eventually landing him a pivotal role as a Cloud Engineer at World Wrestling Entertainment.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Gabriel has made significant contributions to capacity building in technology. In 2022, he launched an ambitious program that trained 1,000 young Africans in critical tech disciplines such as Data Analysis, Product Design, and Cloud Technologies. His leadership extends to Peekpile, an organization he heads that is dedicated to creating job opportunities for Nigerians. Peekpile has successfully secured employment for over 40 Nigerians in international markets like the US, UK, and Canada, distributing close to N30M within just three months—a testament to the tangible impact of his initiatives.

Driven by a profound desire to empower his compatriots, Gabriel aspires to transform Nigeria into a major exporter of technology talent, thereby strengthening the nation's economy. His work exemplifies his belief in the power of technology to change lives and his commitment to elevating the global stature of Nigerian tech professionals.

On a lighter note, despite his formidable achievements, Gabriel openly shares his quirky fear of dogs, adding a touch of relatability to his impressive profile.



Nile Award Recipient

IRENE XANDERENA

*"Healthcare Advocate,
Educator, Philanthropist,
Author, and Global
Changemaker"*

***"Healthcare and education
are the cornerstones of a
thriving society."***

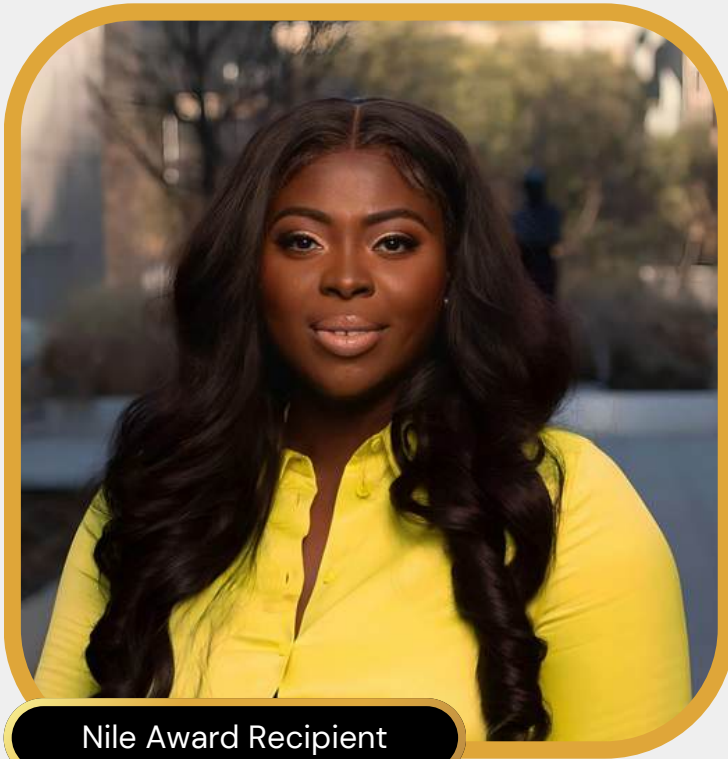
Irene Xanderena, a figure of compassion and determination, is redefining the landscape of healthcare and education through her multifaceted career and philanthropic efforts. The founder of The Xanderena Foundation, Irene's journey spans continents and professions— from her early education in London, England to working in accounting in the bustling city of Lagos, Nigeria, and finally from a nurse preceptor to a senior clinical research associate in the United States. Her diverse background fuels a ceaseless passion for healthcare and education that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries.

In April 2018, Irene launched The Xanderena Foundation, a beacon of hope that addresses critical health needs within Nigeria's most underserved communities. With a robust team of over 50 volunteers from various sectors—including medical and non-medical professionals—the foundation embarks on quarterly outreach missions that have so far conducted 48 community visits and positively affected over 23,000 lives.

October 2021 marked a significant expansion of the foundation's impact with the launch of the HYPE (Health Youth Population Education) Program. Targeting young students in public schools, the program equips them with essential hygiene products and educational materials covering crucial health topics from personal to dental hygiene, and more, significantly boosting their well-being.

Beyond her charitable initiatives, Irene Xanderena is also an accomplished writer. Her literary contributions, such as "HYPE' Health Youth Population Education" and "Vital Signs," serve both educational and philanthropic purposes, gifted during foundation visits to spread knowledge and empowerment. Additionally, Irene's other works are accessible globally via major outlets like Amazon and Barnes and Noble, further spreading her influence and insights.

Irene Xanderena's story is one of relentless dedication and profound impact, making her a deserving recipient of recognition. As she continues to build bridges between healthcare and education across continents, her efforts illuminate the paths to well-being and knowledge for countless individuals.



Nile Award Recipient

JOYCE AGBANOBİ

*"Data Analytics Expert,
Mentor, Women's Advocate,
Tech Leader, and Immigrant
Supporter"*

***"A Trailblazer Transforming
Corporate America and
Beyond"***

Joyce's journey is nothing short of inspirational. Immigrating to the U.S. seven years ago to pursue a master's in data Analytics at Texas A&M University, she has since become a formidable presence in corporate America. A true pioneer, Joyce was one of the initial team members at Jumia in 2012, where she played a critical role in shaping the e-commerce landscape across Africa.

Her career trajectory soared as she joined industry giants like Amazon and Microsoft, where she excelled in senior managerial roles. At these companies, Joyce was instrumental in developing critical systems and tools that significantly enhanced their revenue streams in Retail and Cloud Networking. Today, she is at the helm of engineering and product management teams at a leading immigration law firm, revolutionizing the immigration platform to support millions of immigrants in the U.S.

However, Joyce's influence extends well beyond her professional achievements. She is a fervent advocate for women and immigrants, co-founding PlusOne, a digital platform dedicated to fostering the next generation of professional women leaders. PlusOne offers these ambitious women 24/7 access to top-tier mentors and opportunities for forging meaningful connections.

Under Joyce's leadership, PlusOne has empowered over 5,000 women, facilitating mentorship connections, and accelerating their career transitions. She has also partnered with Texas universities to streamline their students' job placements and collaborated with prominent organizations, including Forbes BLK and Microsoft, to organize impactful in-real-life (IRL) events for emerging women leaders.

Joyce embodies the spirit of inclusion, not only advocating for it but actively cultivating environments where women and immigrants can thrive. Her unwavering dedication and belief in the transformative power of mentorship and support are a testament to her impactful approach to leadership.



Nile Award Recipient

BOLA ADENIYI

*"Cybersecurity Expert,
AppSec Leader, Mentor,
Educator, and Women
Empowerer"*

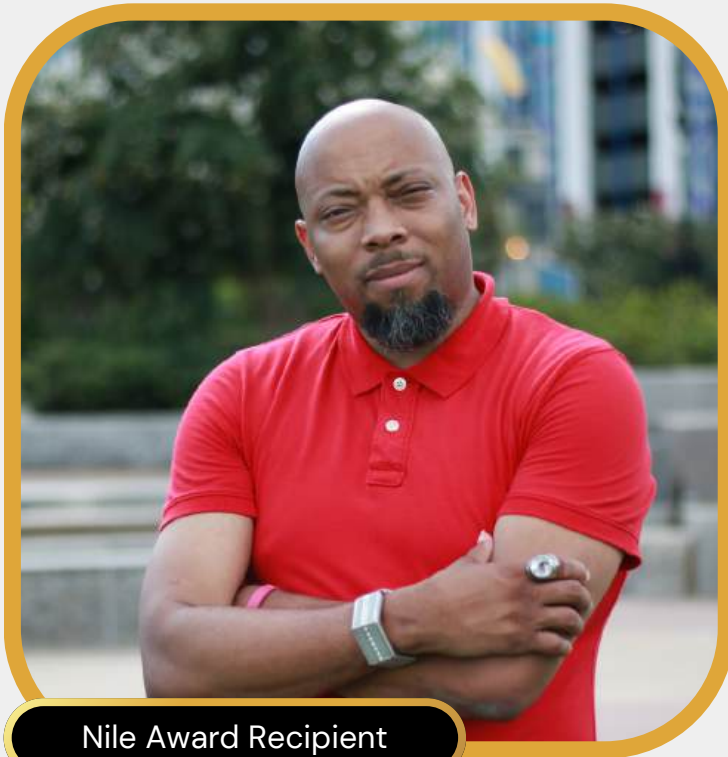
***"Empowering the next
generation through
knowledge and mentorship."***

Bola Adeniyi stands at the forefront of cybersecurity as the visionary founder of WEB INDY and the dedicated Director of Application Security. In her role, she spearheads the Container Security Service, enhancing software engineering processes and products by operationalizing container security in collaboration with the AppSec organization. Bola's commitment to advancing cybersecurity is recognized through her myriad industrial certifications and a recent Award of Excellence from the FutureCon Cybersecurity Event, acknowledging her unwavering dedication to the field.

Educationally, Bola's journey is as comprehensive as it is impressive. She holds an Associate of Science in Computer Information Systems, a Bachelor of Science in Statistics, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Technology, and a Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Trusted Systems. This rich academic background gives her a deep understanding of cybersecurity's technical complexities.

Beyond her professional commitments, Bola is deeply invested in mentoring. She spends her free time guiding college students and supporting women's entry into technology and cybersecurity. Her mentoring is not just about career guidance; it's about inspiring and empowering the next generation to succeed and innovate.

Driven by a mission to educate, inspire, mentor, and connect, Bola is passionate about empowering others to realize their potential and positively impact the cybersecurity industry. With her extensive expertise, enthusiasm, and leadership, Bola Adeniyi is shaping a more secure and inclusive future in technology.



Nile Award Recipient

J HACKETT

"Social Scientist, Entrepreneur, Community Developer, Educator, and Black Business Advocate"

"Championing diversity, fostering growth, and inspiring change."

J Hackett is a social scientist and a serial entrepreneur with over 20+ years of community and economic development experience. He is a TEDx speaker whose cross-sector work has been featured in Forbes Magazine, Yahoo! Finance, NC Bar Journal, and many scholarly journals.

He is the founder of Grind – Asheville's first Black Owned Coffee Shop. His award-winning business was recognized as the #1 best minority-owned business, #3 best coffee shop in the state of North Carolina, and most recently, the #1 fastest-growing startup in Asheville.

J Hackett is also the founder of Black Wall Street AVL, the business incubator with over 141 businesses with a mission to help start, grow, and expand BIPOC businesses in Western North Carolina. He is also an instructor at Lenoir Rhyne Equity and Diversity Institute.

In 2017 he spoke for South by Southwest on neighborhood revitalization. 2009 he founded the Leviticus Educational Center in Nairobi, Kenya

Dr Hackett holds a BA in Sociology from the University of North Carolina – Asheville, Sociological research from the University of Ghana – Legon, a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University, and a Ph.D. from Eli College. His work and scholarship have been featured in the NC Bar Journal, published in scholarly journals, awarded by Chambers of Commerce, and recognized on national and international levels.

He has worked on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to support local work in countries around the world.

However, in the United States, he is most excited about his company 6 Figure Grants where he helps local leaders receive grants to support their own communities. To date, he has helped organizations raise over \$58 Million in grants for their community work.

He is married to Dr. Alaysia Black Hackett, who was appointed by President Biden as the Chief Diversity Officer for the US Dept of Labor, and the two have three children. Most of all, he is a diehard fan of Golden Girls – thank you for being a friend.



Nile Award Recipient

FEMI OJO

"Agile coach and project management expert fostering growth and transformation."

"Empowering teams to achieve excellence through agile transformation and mentorship."

Femi Adebayo stands as a paragon of excellence in the realms of project management and agile coaching, with an illustrious career spanning over 17 years. His multifaceted expertise encompasses the telecom, information technology, financial sectors, and hardware industry. Throughout his career, Femi has consistently demonstrated exceptional skills in project management, system design, software development, and customer support, establishing himself as a versatile and invaluable asset in each field he has ventured into.

At the core of Femi's professional journey lies a profound focus on enterprise transformational strategy and continuous improvement. His strategic insights and ability to drive transformation initiatives have enabled numerous organizations to achieve significant milestones, enhancing their operational efficiency and competitive edge. Femi's approach to enterprise transformation is holistic, integrating advanced methodologies and innovative solutions to foster sustainable growth and development.

Femi's passion for agile methodologies has been a cornerstone of his career. He specializes in cultivating agile coaching capabilities, working tirelessly to instill agile principles and practices within teams and leadership. His dedication to agile coaching is not just about implementing frameworks but about fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration. Through his efforts, many organizations have witnessed a seamless transition to agile, resulting in improved project outcomes and enhanced team dynamics.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Femi is deeply committed to coaching, training, and mentoring others. He offers monthly Scrum coaching and mentoring classes, where he equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their careers. His classes are not merely instructional but are transformative experiences that empower students to land their dream jobs and achieve their professional aspirations.

Femi's dedication to the agile community extends beyond his coaching sessions. He is actively involved in various initiatives aimed at improving the agile community, contributing to its growth and evolution. His initiatives are designed to support continuous learning and development, ensuring that agile practitioners are well-equipped to navigate the ever-changing landscape of project management.

Throughout his career, Femi has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence, both in his professional endeavors and in his contributions to the broader community. His ability to inspire and motivate others, coupled with his extensive expertise, has made him a highly respected figure in the field of project management and agile coaching. Femi's journey is a testament to the power of dedication, continuous learning, and a genuine passion for helping others achieve their goals.

As we honor Femi Adebayo with the Savvy Initiative Recognition Award, we celebrate not only his professional achievements but also his profound impact on the agile community and his unwavering commitment to mentoring and empowering the next generation of leaders.

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Savvy Initiative first outreach in 2015



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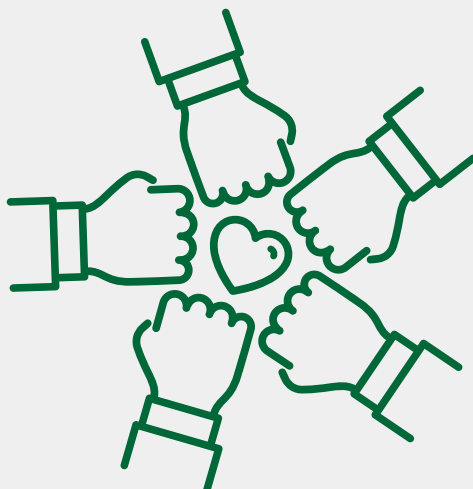
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A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Esteemed Attendees

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we conclude this year's Savvy Initiative Recognition Awards (SIRA), we extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for joining us in celebrating African Excellence. Your presence at the event not only honored the remarkable individuals we recognized but also contributed to the spirit of unity and inspiration that defines SIRA.

We are immensely grateful for your support and participation, which have made this event truly unforgettable. Your enthusiasm and engagement fuel our mission to shine a spotlight on those making a profound impact in their communities.

Thank you for being a part of this special evening, for sharing in the stories of our unsung heroes, and for helping us amplify their voices. We look forward to your continued support as we strive to celebrate excellence and drive positive change across Africa.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Savvy Initiative Team
SIRA – We see you.

Contact Us :

Have any questions for us? Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Savvy Initiative team, we would love to hear from you.



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HOW DID WE DO AT SIRA?

