

# ACTIVATE

An 8-week immersive learning experience with the goal of making entrepreneurship more inclusive and accessible to Black Northwestern students.

## SPRING 2021 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



### **Ashley Abraham, Kellogg '22**

Ashley is originally from the Washington, DC area and spent the beginning of her professional career as a K-12 educator in Baltimore and DC before transitioning to the nonprofit sector. Prior to starting at Kellogg, she was a congressional staffer for the U.S. House Oversight Committee via a fellowship for Teach For America alumni. Her interest in the intersection of the public and private sectors is what encouraged her to pursue her MBA. At Kellogg, Ashley is focusing on Strategy and Entrepreneurship. She is also a member of the leadership teams for the Black Management Association and Net Impact organizations. Her passion for pursuing impact is what sparked her idea to create a new product that she hopes will support everyone in their civic journeys as they advocate for the change they wish to see in our society.



### **Ayinoluwa (Ayin) Abegunde, McCormick '22**

Ayin, born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria is studying Chemical Engineering. Passionate about the hair industry, Ayin strives to transform the afro-textured hair industry by combining her experience in science and art. During lockdown, she began educating her Instagram community about the science and art of afro-textured hair care, as well as sharing her journey to loving her hair; she quickly realized how much useful information about hair care they were not aware of. She is currently exploring hair art by working as a student docent at Northwestern's Block Museum to understand how learning institutions function and how art can be used as a learning tool in the afro-textured hair industry.



### **Gabe Dara, Weinberg '24**

Originally from Chicago, Gabe is a Neuroscience major and Computer Science minor. His current project, Caped Clinicians, aims to break down barriers in scientific communication and help make science news and concepts more accessible to the general public. He also serves as the Vice President of the Cultural and Community Studies residential college and is actively involved in the GlobeMed student organization.



### **Imani Davis, SoC '22**

Imani is a Chicago-based film producer, writer, and engagement strategist. She has a background in cinema history and theory, and is passionate about making the untold stories of our world come to life, ensuring high quality, accessibility, and diversity throughout the process. She has been the recipient of Reunion Chicago's Cultural Producer's Grant and Mezcla Media Collective's & Banner TV's Inaugural Film Microgrant. Imani is the founder and Creative Director of Chicago Made Shorts, a new digital platform showcasing work in the city of Chicago by local established and emerging filmmakers.



### **Linus Okoth, McCormick '23**

Linus is a sophomore from Nairobi, Kenya, studying Computer Science and Computer Engineering. He is the co-founder of Exploreate which aims to make international volunteering feel more at home, bringing more meaning, success and comfort to life-changing international volunteering opportunities. Linus is passionate about Human Computer Interactions and research on using Artificial Intelligence to better the experience. Outside class, Linus is part of the African Student Association and the Northwestern Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.



### **Onyekaorise Chigbogwu, Medill '23**

Onyekaorise is a sophomore in the Medill School of Journalism. He is from the Kansas City, Missouri area. He found an interest in film and photography in high school, after taking on some editing projects. He has directed and edited a number of projects including music videos for artists and promotional videos for the American Cancer Society. Onyeka is currently the photo editor on for Blackboard Magazine, the Black student interest magazine at Northwestern. After his time at Northwestern, he hopes to pursue documentary and narrative filmmaking along with other creative endeavors. He also wants to work to make creative outlets accessible to young people in his hometown of Kansas City.



### **Panashe Muriro, McCormick '23**

Panashe is from Zimbabwe and he is curious about technology, so he is studying Computer Science. He believes that in order to be more productive, one has to be more organized. This is what is motivating Panashe to develop a mobile application that will allow students to easily manage upcoming events, classes, and also connect with each other. He also hopes that the application will make it better for the minority students to find and enjoy communities at Northwestern. Being an African student, and a member of NSBE and ASA, Panashe definitely understands the value of communities that represent minorities.