

What is the Experiential Learning in Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (ELITE) Program for Black Youth?

- » Holistic approach for Black Youth to access hands-on learning and work-integrated training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and entrepreneurship.
- » For Black Youth between the ages of 15 and 22, enrolled in high school or a post-secondary institution.
- » Interns participate in paid internships in an innovation ecosystem and on cutting-edge industry-relevant equipment.
- » Projects with university researchers, for-profit industry companies, or government agencies.
- » Includes an Entrepreneurship Design Series and a Wellness and Coaching Series.
- » Interns acquire marketable technical skills, transition to post-secondary studies, develop resiliency, and build a professional network for future employment.



ELITE Program interns delivering technical presentations on 26 August 2021

"It's really cool to be in this environment where you're surrounded by other Black associates who are also working towards their own success. It's definitely something I haven't had before: supervisors who understand the specific nuances of the Black experience in a professional sense."

Tinashe Muzah
3rd Year Finance student,
University of Alberta, and aspiring lawyer.



Dr. André McDonald, Director



Dr. Sophie Yohani, Coaching and
Counselling Lead



Dr. Sedami Gnidehou, Francophone Lead



Dr. Adetola Adesida, Health Sciences
Program Lead

Management Structure

Our management structure includes a:

- Steering Council
- Director
- Co-Director
- Health Sciences Program Lead
- Coaching and Counselling Lead
- Francophone Lead

"Research has shown that innovators tend to be entrepreneurs. We want any student that works in science and engineering to start to think about creating things, not only analyzing. We want them to synthesize as well."

Professor André McDonald
University of Alberta

The ELITE Program for Black Youth is Demographically Diverse

2021 Intern Cohort Demographics

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Total Number of Interns | 43 |
| Race | |
| Black | 98% |
| Other | 2% |
| Academic Level | |
| High School | 55% |
| Post-secondary | 45% |
| Gender | |
| Male | 55% |
| Female | 45% |
| Official Languages | |
| English only | 79% |
| English and French | 21% |
| Citizenship | |
| Canadian, Permanent Resident, Refugee | 87% |
| International Student | 13% |

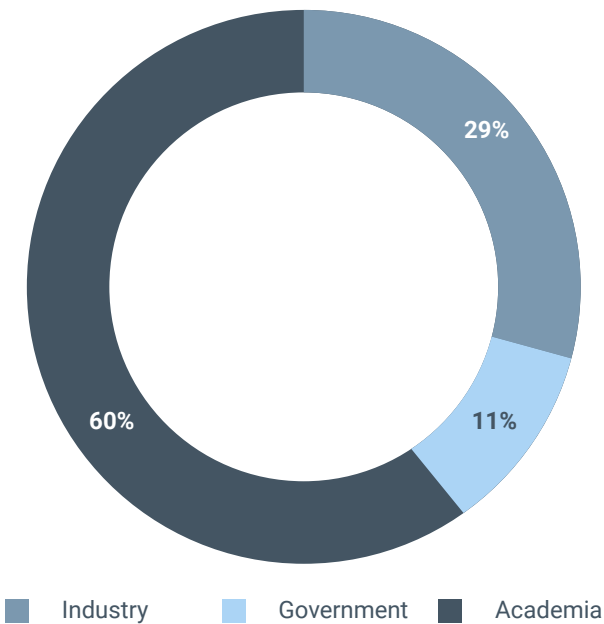
The ELITE Program team includes the following staff members.

- Two engineering and computing science research graduate students as program coordinators.
- A communications coordinator who is a biology undergraduate student.
- A provisional psychologist who developed the Wellness and Coaching Series.
- A psychology and linguistics undergraduate student as our English-French translator.

"I want Black Francophone youth to know about the Program and to take this unique opportunity to be involved. The ELITE Program is like a seed, and in three to five years, I want the ELITE Program to be a pan-Canadian program for Black youth."

Professor Sedami Gnidehou
University of Alberta

Who are ELITE Program for Black Youth Internship Hosts and Community Partners?



"ELITE Program interns are very impressive. Right from the [start], they're very well-rounded and open. You can see that they appreciate the time and effort the business is putting into them – so they're very respectful on that side – and it shows how eager they are to get their hands dirty."

Keenan Pascal
CEO and co-founder of Token Naturals



National Black Coalition of Canada Society

SUPPORTING ALL BLACKS IN THE EDMONTON COMMUNITY



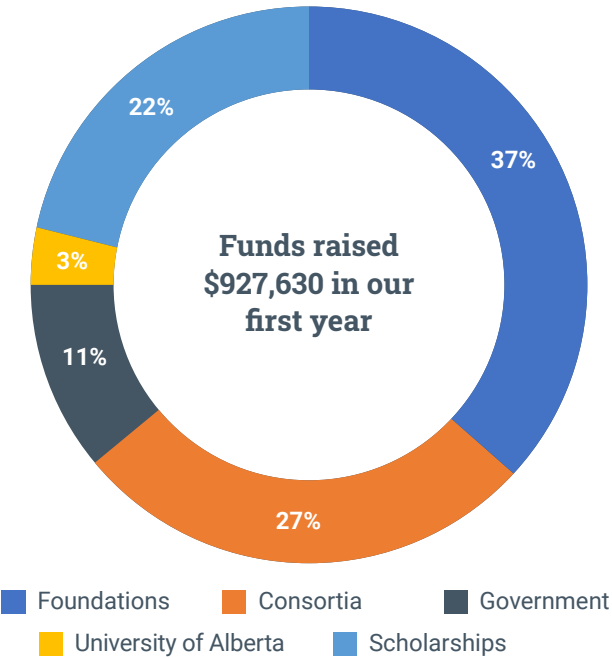
DIVISION OF INNOVATE EDMONTON

Our internship host partners include Enbridge, Sysco Canada, Stantec, Token Naturals, Ruth, Williams Engineering, Alberta Health Services, InnoTech Alberta, City of Edmonton, and academic researchers at the University of Alberta.



Foundation

Sponsorship and Support for the ELITE Program for Black Youth is Strong



Our 2021 sponsors include:

- RBC Foundation Future Launch Program
- Future Skills Centre
- University of Alberta
- Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program
- The Counselling Foundation of Canada
- Private Donors

**Note: Scholarships are not guaranteed. Nominated ELITE Program interns will be automatic finalists in the national competitions.*

“Thank you very much for providing me and many other people with the opportunity to experience many different fields of STEM and to learn invaluable skills that will help us throughout our career. Learning more about each field, connecting with other people, and being mentored by internship hosts and ELITE coordinators was a very unique [and] enlightening experience.”

Damola Akinola

1st Year Engineering Student, University of Alberta, working on a Hybrid Brain-Computer Interface using Eye Gaze.

Where Can I Learn More about the ELITE Program for Black Youth?

Visit us at www.eliteprogram.ca

Contact us at elite@ualberta.ca

ELITE
PROGRAM FOR BLACK YOUTH



ELITE Program Interns (front; left to right): Severino Asumu, Yanela Gonzalez Sanchez, and Imani Murray. (back; left to right): Dr. Sedami Gnidehou and Dr. André McDonald