LEADERSHIP FORUM ON SOCIAL INNOVATION: Is Education the Great Equalizer in Silicon Valley?

On October 3, 2018, GLAC and our social innovation partners hosted a Leadership Forum for Social Innovation. Guest speakers were education luminaries, Dr. Jeff Ashe of Columbia University and Manny Barbara of Silicon Valley Education Foundation. The speakers addressed the complex issue of income inequality and access to education in informative and engaging ways. Manny Barbara, with 30 years of experience in education in Silicon Valley, noted that education is a part of a larger society and that we each have a role to play to ensure that everyone has access to quality education. Dr. Jeff Ashe focused on Savings Circles – a social innovation that often results in money for children’s education. This traditional practice is found in numerous countries and is utilized by immigrants in the US. Savings Circles work when a group of people who know and trust each other contribute an equal sum to a communal pot of money. Every week or so, a different member receives all the money in the pot. The circle continues at least until each member has collected the pot.

In this way, the circles provide members with a lump sum without having to pay bank fees or qualify for loans and pay interest. According to Dr. Ashe, there are 45 million first generation immigrants in the U.S. If only 10% – 4.5 million – joined a Savings Circle and the average amount saved in groups is $100 per week or $5,000 per year, this translates into $25 billion saved and distributed every year. The money saved via circles could fund education costs, rent, car and house down payments, and new business ventures. Following the presentations, in a workshop-style discussion attendees focused on identifying innovative, yet achievable cross-sector solutions aimed to balance and align educational opportunities in Silicon Valley.
Meet Our New Executive-in-Residence:

Almaz Negash

GLAC welcomed Almaz in July as executive-in-residence. As senior managing director at Step Up Silicon Valley, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Almaz has created a vast network of social innovators in Silicon Valley. In 2010, she founded and became Executive Director of the African Diaspora Network. Earlier in her career, Almaz held senior management positions at Silicon Valley Women’s Initiative, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University, and Silicon Valley Center for International Trade Development.

KLA-Tencor is First to Sponsor New GLAC Programs

The recently launched Global Leadership Company Consortium project comprises two steps: first is to attract corporate sponsors to be highly involved program partners, and second is to execute the proposed Global Leadership Fellows Program, where exceptional SJSSU undergraduate business students participate in comprehensive, cutting-edge global leadership skills development and training.

GLAC is seeking 25 South Bay companies to join the Consortium as founding members and is pleased to announce that KLA-Tencor is the first company to sponsor the program with a donation of $10,000.

Sponsoring companies gain access to GLAC retreats, workshops, peer-coaching, webinars, events, and design guidance on their in-house global leadership development. They also get first pick of outstanding students to help fill their global leadership pipeline.

The Fellows program includes design thinking and social innovation in both local and global settings. It also incorporates mutual mentoring on diversity issues. Company sponsors provide students with a unique opportunity they could not otherwise afford.

Welcome New GLAC Board Members!

Derene Allen * John Baird * Janet Bennett * Cindy Campbell * Louis Chicoine * Rossella Derickson * Annette Finsterbusch * Steve Hickens * Bradley Maihack * Almaz Negash * Jacquelyn Peterson * John Picone * Richard Sessions*

John Swan * Brad Vartan * Dave Wilde

Thank you!

Founded in 2008, SJSSU’s Global Leadership Advancement Center offers programs to advance, foster, and disseminate cutting-edge global leadership knowledge and best practices to students, working professionals and educators – around the globe.

Please contact us at glac-group@sjssu.edu or call Joyce Osland at (408)924-3583. Contact Almaz Negash at Almaz.Negash@sjssu.edu.

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