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THE BLACK EXCELLENCE SUMMIT

Through Adversity to Ascent

**INAUGURAL
CONFERENCE**

February 22, 2025
MIT Media Lab
Cambridge, MA

MIT BBSA MISSION

The MIT Sloan Black Business Student Association (BBSA) is dedicated to **closing the racial disparities in the business world**, specifically within high leadership positions, by empowering Black students to dream and achieve big. We hope to achieve this mission by supporting MIT Sloan's Black students with their personal and professional goals by **equipping them with resources, specialized tools, and an unparalleled business network** including Sloan alumni. With equal weight, we strive to tackle our mission statement by **fostering and cultivating a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the Black experience in business**, both the triumphs and challenges, within the broader Sloan community. The pillars of our organization - **mentorship, representation, and community** - serve as our north stars for attacking this problem statement and creating a more inclusive and equitable business landscape. Our BBSA family includes over **200 current students and alumni** and is only growing with future classes.

CONFERENCE MISSION

“This summit is a unique and transformative conference designed to empower Black aspiring professionals within the MIT Sloan and broader Boston community. This event is a comprehensive one-stop-shop to networking with prestigious companies, key speakers and panels, and quick access to the most successful Black leaders for their professional networks and potential 1:1 mentorship. This conference offers something for everyone - black and non-black young leaders - as it spans all key industry areas including, but not limited to, finance/investing, leadership, entrepreneurship and technology.”

....in the words of Gabon Williams, our Conference Founder



BELIEVE. BLUEPRINT. BUILD

This year's theme

"**Believe. Blueprint. Build.**" is a call to action, a roadmap to self-actualization. It challenges us to first **BELIEVE** in the audacious scope of our dreams, fostering an unshakeable conviction in our potential. Then, we **BLUEPRINT**, strategically charting the course, breaking down ambitious goals into actionable steps. Finally, we **BUILD**, courageously translating aspirations into tangible reality through relentless action and dedication, embracing the MIT spirit of "*mens et manus*" — where innovation is born from the marriage of intellect and action. The panels and speakers we seek to showcase embody this very mentality, proving that extraordinary achievements are born not from mere words, but from unwavering commitment and the grit to turn dreams into reality through a willingness to do whatever it takes. This theme encapsulates the transformative power of intentionality, reminding us that our greatest aspirations are within reach when we dare to dream, plan, and relentlessly pursue.

These stories of **BLACK EXCELLENCE** serve as a powerful reminder that the path to **ASCENT** is paved with an unyielding commitment to turn dreams into reality through the **BELIEF. BLUEPRINT. BUILD.** model, even in the face of **ADVERSITY.**



