BIG BOLD IDEA

Expand career opportunities for black men and boys in the U.S. by providing hands-on training in STEM fields and fostering networks of professionals capable of succeeding in STEM careers.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

ELiTE levels the playing field for under-represented populations in STEM by increasing access to resources, building communities of peers and mentors, and strengthening the internal motivations of students. We achieve this through school-based programs, summer camps, and e-learning platforms designed to empower black men and boys to pursue STEM coursework at the secondary and collegiate levels. We are creating a pipeline of diverse socially responsible professionals choosing STEM careers.

PERSONAL BIO

Chelsey is the president and co-founder of Emerging Leaders in Technology and Engineering, Inc. (ELiTE). ELiTE was founded after an inspirational trip to Ghana when Chelsey and classmates from Columbia Engineering facilitated a hands-on summer camp focusing on sustainable technologies. Over the next few years the summer camps grew from the classrooms of a rural village in Ghana to a primary school in Tanzania and university campuses in Ghana, Jamaica, and Mexico offering workshops and trainings in everything from software development and robotics to ecology and astronomy. Since graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University in 2010, Chelsey has worked in Harlem for the Abyssinian Development Corporation and with the Columbia University School of Social Work to coordinate a dropout prevention program at one of America’s lowest performing high schools. Through his work in Harlem, Chelsey has seen the need for quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming as a means to close the achievement gap and provide economic opportunities for black men and boys in the 21st century global economy.