

**CEBN's Inclusive Energy Economy Update** highlights news, business resources, and events at the nexus of economic opportunity, clean energy, and diversity, equity, & inclusion.

In honor of Black History Month, CEBN is celebrating all the amazing organizations making strides for Black and Brown people in the clean energy ecosystem.

(F) This month, register for upcoming conferences from AABE and Black in Environment, apply for the AABE Scholarship Program and Innovate Together Grant, and learn about Prosperity Now.

# **Events**

#### Feb.22: Advancing Black-led Climate Justice Solutions (Virtual)

This event will examine how philanthropy, government, the media, and industry can be key partners in scaling up Black-led, frontline climate solutions and also celebrate the success of Black-led organizations across the country with specific examples of solidarity actions that are already helping to scale what works.

#### Feb.29: <u>Contracts, Grants & Cooperative Agreements for MSIs, TCUs, &</u> <u>HBCUs (</u>Washington, DC)

This event hosted by the Dept. of Energy's Office of Energy Justice and Equity is part of the <u>FY24 Educational Engagement and Training Series.</u> During the event you will learn about how Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) can do business with the Dept. of Energy and the Federal Government at large.

## Apr 21-27: 2024 Black in Environment Conference (Virtual & Washington, DC)

The purpose of the Black in Environment Week is to facilitate connections between Black environmentalists by inviting scientists, community organizers, creatives, climate professionals, policymakers, and all those who engage with the environment to share their knowledge and expertise with one another. Additionally, professional development opportunities are provided for people interested in working in the environmental field. The in-person conference will be happening on April 25-27 at Howard University.



#### Apr. 22-25: 2024 AABE 47th National Conference (Anaheim, CA)

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) National Conference provides an impactful forum for more than 1,000 energy professionals. As an attendee, you will have opportunities to forge partnerships, network, and connect with key decision-makers. The AABE National Conference provides your company a cost-effective, value-added opportunity to create brand awareness and increase brand loyalty.

# **Funding / Support Opportunities**



#### AABE National & Regional Scholarship

#### **Deadline: April 15**

AABE awards 7 scholarships annually: Six (6) Regional scholarships at \$3K each and one (1) National scholarship at \$5K. This is a reoccurring scholarship for up to 4 years as long as the recipient maintains a 3.0 GPA and remains enrolled in a business or sciences, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) major in preparation for a career in the energy sector.

### Black Girl Ventures (BVG) Innovate Together Grant

#### **Deadline: February 29**

The BGV Innovate Together Grant Program aims to empower small business owners/entrepreneurs and content creators on their journey to success. The program will provide up to \$50K in grants enabling businesses to work with creators who possess the prowess to craft captivating content resonating with target audiences. The program aims to redefine success by fostering innovative collaborations, amplifying brand reach, and building lasting legacies. Other BVG programs include BVG pitch, Emerging Leaders Fellowship, BVG NextGen, and Virtual Communities.

#### **BE Nimble Idea-Stage Accelerator**

#### **Deadline: April 30**

The Be Nimble Idea-Stage Accelerator is a program for Black and Brown founders with a tech idea they are looking to validate. Completion of this program will prep founders to build their minimum viable product and get them prepared for our early-stage accelerator or other programs geared towards idea-stage founders. During the program you will learn about b usiness set-up, market validation and research, market validation and research, deep customer analysis, pricing model, revenue model, strategic partners, one-page business plan, and pitch deck creation. Be Nimble will be having a food entrepreneurship accelerator program in June and an early-stage accelerator program in August. It also has a OnDeck Upskilling Program and a mentorship program.

# Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (GRANTED)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

GRANTED supports the development of the research enterprise, particularly at emerging research and minority-serving institutions, to address the complexity of pursuing and managing externally supported activities. The research enterprise is broadly defined and includes administrative support and service infrastructure such as, but not limited to, human capital, research development and administration, research analytics, technology transfer and commercialization, corporate relations/public-private partnerships, research integrity, compliance and security, research policy, administration of student research training, and research leadership.

#### **EnrichHer**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

EnrichHER connects companies led by women and founders of color to the capital, coaching, and community they need to take their businesses to new heights. Access direct loans and

lines of credits from \$10k-\$250k and \$5k small business grants. Additionally, EnrichHER has a five-week Business Financing Accelerator to put you on the fast-track to funding and get you access to its network of funders.

# **Energy Justice Implementation**

#### **Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Program**

#### **Deadline: April 22**

The IGE Program is designed to encourage development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative approaches to STEM graduate education training. The program seeks proposals that a) explore ways for graduate students in STEM master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers, or b) support research on the graduate education system and outcomes of systemic interventions and policies. The program addresses both workforce development, emphasizing broad participation, and institutional capacity-building needs in graduate education.

# **Featured Resource**

#### **Prosperity Now**

Prosperity Now works to transform current systems, practices and policies in service of an economy that works for everyone. Prosperity Now creates/innovates and advocates for policies, pilots and programs where entrepreneurs of color can sustain and scale their businesses and thrive. By strengthening the existing entrepreneurship support ecosystem serving entrepreneurs color, we uncover solutions to effect systems change through technological innovation, advancing racial equity in the <u>climate economy</u>, building wealth through <u>business transfers</u>, improving policy and more.

