

# CAPITAL EXPLORER FUND

## APPROVED PROJECTS TO DATE



**Lekabel Abul** is a 2018 graduate of McKinley Technology High School. While attending the University of Notre Dame, Lekabel's Capital Explorer funding was approved in 2023. Lekabel participated in the National Society of Black Engineers conference in Kansas City, Missouri. While at the NSBE conference, Lekabel built connections with fellow engineers and interviewed top companies, including Mars, Northrop Grumman, Rockwell Automation, and UPS. She received on-site job offers from Mars and Rockwell Automation.

**Gural Nuriyev** is a 2019 graduate of School Without Walls High School. Gural received the Capital Explorer funding in 2023. While attending Boston College, Gural participated in the World Summit Artificial Intelligence Americas in Montreal, Canada. Gural built AI models during the summit, networked with Canadian industry experts, and discovered innovative start-ups.



**Matwos Tadesse** is a 2020 graduate of Roosevelt STAY High School. Matwos was awarded Capital Explorer funding in 2023. While attending Lafayette College, Matwos accepted an internship with Goldman Sachs in New York City, New York. During his internship, Matwos gained experience as an equity research intern in their asset and wealth management division. Matwos worked with portfolio managers who oversaw billion-dollar deals, which allowed him to gain insights into the financial markets. Matwos also gained valuable connections and expanded his technical skills during his internship.

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**Janiya Charity** is a 2022 Benjamin Banneker High School graduate attending Spelman College. Janiya received the Capital Explorer funding in 2023 and 2024. During the summer of 2023, Janiya accepted an unpaid internship with The Clothing Library, owned by Rubenstein Alumna Mila De Souza. While working as a Fashion Merchandising Intern, Janiya researched fashion trends, learned how to organize clothing inventory, and supported operations at The Clothing Library. Janiya reapplied and received Capital Explorer funding to study abroad in Milan, Italy, at the end of her Spring 2024 semester. Janiya learned about African diasporic experiences, leading across cultures and global thinking.



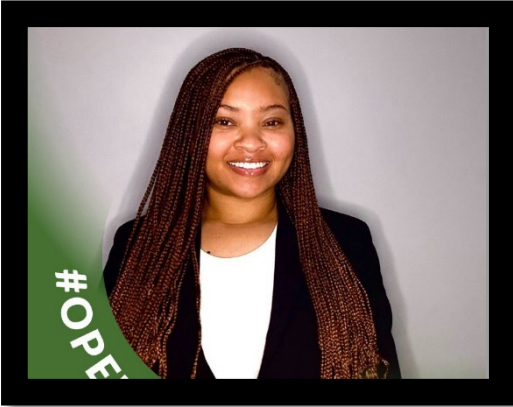
**Kayla Watson** is a 2021 Columbia Heights Education Campus graduate attending Temple University. During her winter break in 2024, Kayla visited Accra, Ghana, where she learned about Ghana's economic position and agriculture while delving into additional cultural aspects. She explored various companies including Kamini Chocolates, Niche Cocoa, AWA Roofing Services, and N Mobile Solutions Limited. Kayla also participated in a cooking class, visited Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, and participated in a Traditional Naming Ceremony in a small village.

**Frances Udoe** is a 2021 KIPP DC- College Preparatory Academy Public Charter School graduate attending Lycoming College. Frances received Capital Explorer funding in 2024. Beginning her 2024 summer, Frances traveled abroad to the Dominican Republic to participate in Lycoming College Warrior Coffee Project. Frances was able to immerse in local culture, travel to various cities, learn from female entrepreneurs and local farmers, and complete various community development projects. Frances also led a class in introductory business, she shared accounting journals to encourage her class to record income and expenses.

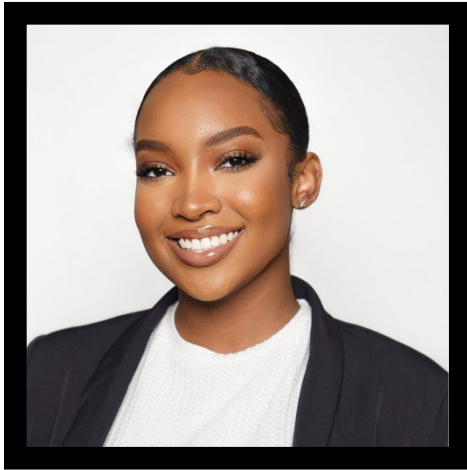


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**Tiara Crutchfield** is a 2022 graduate of School Without Walls High School attending Spelman College. Tiara received Capital Explorer Funding in 2024. Beginning her 2024 summer Tiara studied abroad in Seville Spain. Tiara immersed herself in the Spanish culture and was able to tour various historical sites such as the Plaza de España, the Royal Alcazar, Setas de Sevilla, and the Flamenco Museum.



**Jailen Route** is a 2021 graduate of Capital City Public Charter School attending North Carolina A&T College. Jailen received the Capital Explorer funding in 2024. Jailen participated in an unpaid internship with criminal defense attorney Mr. Keith Lee Hiller. During her internship, Jailen observed court proceedings, networking with other professionals within the DC justice system, and gaining first-hand experience to support her professional development.

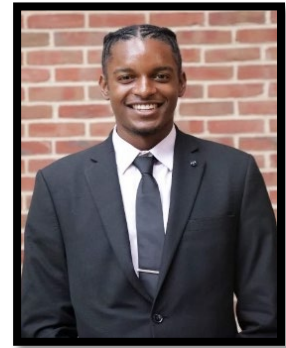
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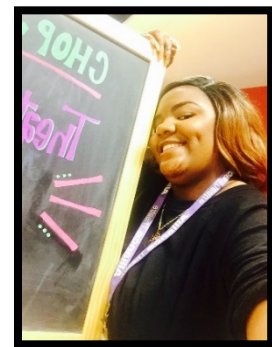
**Dominique Landinez** is a 2017 graduate from Woodrow Wilson High School attending Tufts University. She accepted an unpaid internship through the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California, San Diego. Fortunately, she was able to complete her internship virtually, working under world-renowned neuroscientist Dr. Vilayanur Subramanian Ramachandran.

**Bakari Sibert** graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2016. Prior to the pandemic, he expected to study abroad at the University of Arts in London to explore textile fabric workshop-design. Bakari switched gears and was able to take two virtual courses focusing on fashion textile design and sustainable textiles at Saint Martin College in London.



**Amaya Suarez-Findlay** is a 2016 scholar from Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Initially, Amaya planned to complete a “Spanish through Community Engagement Summer Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica” through the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Despite the pandemic, she was able to pivot, taking two communication courses virtually during the summer of 2020.

**Astra Armstrong** is a Class of 2015 scholar from Duke Ellington attending Norfolk State University. Astra’s Capital Explorer Fund project took place in June-August 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia where she completed a Performance Arts internship at the Alliance Theatre. According to Astra, “I am so grateful for receiving help to go and take advantage of [this] opportunity... It helped me not only shape the focus towards changing the lives of others but to teach and to nurture children and help in their upbringing of future leaders.”





**Karly Smith** graduated from Duke Ellington in 2017 and attends University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Karly traveled to Malawi for six weeks during the summer of 2018 to study human rights and democratic governance in context. Karly earned six credits towards graduation and experienced Malawian Culture including meeting people in parliament, one of the leading feminists in the country, and other locals. She also interacted with the Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation—one of the leading NGOs in Malawi.

**Zelda Glenmore** attends Lincoln University where she studies Mass Communications. Her focus with the Capital Explorer Fund is travel to Jamaica, West Indies, where she studied Travel Videography and Entrepreneurial Journalism. While in Jamaica, Zelda created a documentary capturing modern Jamaican life and culture and gained international experience in her career field leading to making her a more competitive candidate on a professional level. She is a 2015 graduate of Phelps ACE High School.



**Devonte Howard** studies Food Service Management at Johnson and Wales University. A 2015 graduate of Maya Angelou Public Charter School, Devonte spent four weeks in Asia traveling to Singapore and Thailand where he received instruction in six types of Pan Asian cuisine, including hands-on kitchen experience and specialized lectures. The experience helped Devonte expand his skills both as a chef and as an experienced world traveler.