



ABFE

A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

ABFE: A PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIP FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES NAMES ITS 2019-2020 CONNECTING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

The 14th Class of Connecting Leaders Fellowship is Comprised of 12 Philanthropic Leaders Dedicated to Effecting Change in Black Communities

NEW YORK – October 9, 2019– Today ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities announced its 2019 – 2020 class of Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program (CLFP). The program, now in its 14th year, recognizes dynamic leaders with proven track records in promoting effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities.

Fellows receive a yearlong experience designed to offer customized executive leadership coaching, professional development and personalized service learning projects in their respective communities. In addition, the Fellows will convene in Richmond, VA in October 27, 2019 – November 1, 2019 for the “CLFP Leadership Summit” which offers various learning sessions, as well as experiential activities centered around Richmond’s Black communities. This year’s Fellows have vast experience across a range of issue areas including racial and social justice, community engagement, family and children, education reform, equitable grant-making and management.

“Our Fellows explore critical challenges facing Black communities, examine their leadership style and become equipped with new knowledge and tools that we believe are vital to advancing the sector,” said Edward Jones, ABFE’s Vice President of Programs. “What makes our program so unique is the executive coaching, co-learning and mentorship opportunities our Fellows gain that is highly applicable to their work in the philanthropic sector.”

The 14th Class of ABFE’s Connecting Leaders Fellowship work in diverse fields across various nonprofit/foundation institutions. This year’s Fellows are:

- Afia Amobeaa-Sakyi, Membership Marketing Manager, Exponent Philanthropy, Washington D.C.
- Alexandra Bastien, Financial Stability Program Officer, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Mountain View
- Kyndall Clark, Associate, NoVo Foundation, Brooklyn
- Dominique Goss, Senior Manager of Strategy & Social Impact, TD Charitable Foundation, Philadelphia
- Monique N. Johnson, Program Officer, Colorado Health Foundation, Denver

- Ade Oguntoye, Program Associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta
- Elizabeth Posey, Program Officer, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Seattle
- Natalie Self, Program Officer, Entrepreneurship, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City
- Shemeka Sorrells, Senior Director-Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs, Atlanta
- Ashlei Spivey, Program Officer, Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha
- Jilla Tombar, Strategic Partnership Officer, The Greater New Orleans Foundation, New Orleans
- Terry Whitfield, Program Officer, Skillman Foundation, Detroit

“We are proud of the growth and evolution of our CLFP program,” said ABFE’s President and CEO Susan Taylor Batten. “Over the years, it has become the only program of its kind aimed at developing talented Black professionals in the philanthropic sector.”

Members of this class join over 132 other ABFE Fellows whom the program has recognized since its launch in 2005. A selection committee comprised of CLFP alumni and ABFE members reviewed application submissions and made final recommendations of the current class. Fellows were chosen based upon a set of criteria covering their experience in philanthropy, their future goals, as well as their interest and passion for making systemic change in Black communities.

For more information on ABFE’s 2019 – 2020 Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program, visit [ABFE.org](https://abfe.org). For ABFE news, events and more, follow us on Twitter at @ABFE (search #ABFECLFP for real time updates on Connecting Leaders Fellowship); on LinkedIn at @ABFE; on Instagram at @ABFEPhilanthropy; and, like us on Facebook at @ABFEPhilanthropy.

About ABFE:

ABFE is a nonprofit, membership-based philanthropic organization that advocates for responsive and transformative investments in Black communities. Partnering with foundations, nonprofits and individuals, ABFE provides its members with professional development and technical assistance resources that further the philanthropic sector’s connection and responsiveness to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. Established in 1971 as the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the all-volunteer organization was credited with many of philanthropy’s early gains in diversity. It since has evolved into a fully staffed, influential network. In 2013, the organization shed its descriptor and adopted the simpler ABFE (ab-fee) to better reflect its broadening membership. For more information, visit [ABFE.org](https://abfe.org).

[Click Here to Read All Bios](#)

#

Edward M. Jones
Vice President of Programs
ejones@abfe.org

Tekecha Morgan
Programs Associate
tmorgan@abfe.org

Click Here to Read all Bios



AFIA AMOBEAA-SAKYI

Membership Marketing Manager
Exponent Philanthropy
Hometown: Washington D.C.

[Click to Read Bio](#)



ALEXANDRA BASTIEN

Program Officer Financial Stability
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Hometown: Oakland

[Click to Read Bio](#)



KYNDALL CLARK

Associate
NoVo Foundation
Hometown: Brooklyn

[Click to Read Bio](#)



DOMINIQUE GOSS

Senior Manager of Strategy & Social Impact
TD Charitable Foundation
Hometown: Philadelphia

[Click to Read Bio](#)



MONIQUE N. JOHNSON

Program Officer
Colorado Health Foundation
Hometown: Denver

[Click to Read Bio](#)



ADE OGUNTOYE

Program Associate
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Hometown: Atlanta

[Click to Read Bio](#)



ELIZABETH POSEY

Program Officer
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Hometown: Seattle

[Click to Read Bio](#)



NATALIE SELF

Program Officer in Entrepreneurship
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Hometown: Kansas City

[Click to Read Bio](#)



SHEMEKA SORRELLS

Senior Director-Strategic Consulting
Casey Family Programs
Hometown: Atlanta

[Click to Read Bio](#)



ASHLEI SPIVEY

Program Officer
Peter Kiewit Foundation
Hometown: Omaha

[Click to Read Bio](#)



JILLA TOMBAR

Strategic Partnership Officer
The Greater New Orleans Foundation
Hometown: New Orleans

[Click to Read Bio](#)



TERRY WHITFIELD

Program Officer
Skillman Foundation
Hometown: Detroit

[Click to Read Bio](#)

www.abfe.org

