

Empowering Alabama's HBCUs, Entrepreneurs, and Innovators. The Alabama Collective (TAC) is building a more inclusive, tech-driven economy across Alabama. Guided by the principles of **Expose, Educate, Engage, and Empower**, TAC connects talent, training, and opportunity—helping students, founders, and communities transform ideas into impact.

Expose – Expanding Access & Awareness

Innovation Power Hours (IPH)

High-energy, in-person events hosted at HBCUs across Alabama. Students participate in design-thinking workshops, AI activities, and pitch sessions. IPHs blend tech and entrepreneurial exploration with music, giveaways, and networking.

Educate – Building Skills for the Future

FAST SBIR/STTR Proposal Lab

A 3-month program supporting HBCU-community innovators in preparing federal research funding proposals for NSF and DoD. Includes coaching, proposal compliance training, and commercialization strategy.

Pivot Tech - Data Analytics Bootcamp

A 20-week virtual data analytics bootcamp offering 250 hours of instruction, a capstone project, and certification. Prepares learners for careers in data and analytics.

EY3 - Drone Certification Training

A technical course covering drone operations, FAA certification prep, and applications in tech, media, and logistics. Students will graduate the program with an FAA Certificate.

EY3 - AWS Cloud Practitioner Training

A one-week intensive cloud computing course introducing AWS fundamentals. Includes mentorship and a free AWS certification exam for participants.

EY3 - Agile Scrum Master Certification

A professional certification course that introduces participants to Agile principles, Scrum methodology, and practical project-management skills for tech teams.

Kauffman FastTrac Bootcamp

An 8-week entrepreneurial training course covering market research, branding, legal structure, and financial planning. Designed to help founders launch and scale their businesses.

Engage – Creating Community & Connection

Magic City Classic Business Pitch Competition

A business pitch competition held in conjunction with Magic City Classic, where participants are provided an entrepreneurship workshop and compete in pitch rounds, culminating in a live finale and networking reception to showcase HBCU entrepreneurs

App Build & Pitch Competition

A pitch competition where participants build a working application to demo and pitch for a panel of judges. This competition and full day experience is designed to strengthen technical, entrepreneurial and presentation skills providing real world experience.

Innovate Alabama Entrepreneurship Hackathon

An entrepreneurship hackathon where students solve community problems using an instructor led entrepreneurship framework to create a business venture. The competition is open to college students across the entire state of Alabama promoting collaboration among students, community stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

Empower – Turning ideas into impact

Ambassador Program

A leadership, event hosting and planning, and brand-ambassador experience that trains HBCU students to represent The Alabama Collective through social media, campus engagement, and event promotion. Includes training in branding, audience engagement, and professional networking.

Builders + Backers

A national entrepreneurship platform that provides early-stage innovators with funding, tools, and mentorship to turn ideas into action. Through its Idea Accelerator program, participants receive funding, expert coaching, and access to a supportive community of builders nationwide. Through our scholarships, The Alabama Collective partners with Builders + Backers to help HBCU students and alumni launch real-world ventures and grow their impact,

Expose – Expanding Access & Awareness

- Introduced 2,162 individuals to tech, innovation, and entrepreneurship opportunities statewide.
- Hosted Innovation Power Hours and the HBCU Business Pitch Competition at the Magic City Classic, connecting over 1,000 students and faculty to industry mentors, investors, and partners.
- Built bridges between Alabama's HBCUs and employers through partnerships with Microsoft, JPMorgan Chase, CSpire, HBCU CARES and Innovate Alabama.

Educate – Building Skills for the Future

- Delivered 11,996 hours of instruction in AI, cybersecurity, data analytics, and app development across 64% of Alabama's HBCUs.
- Trained hundreds of students through programs like Pivot Tech Bootcamps, FAST SBIR/STTR, and Kauffman FastTrac Entrepreneurship Training.
- Facilitated cybersecurity certification cohorts (A+ and Security+), preparing underrepresented learners for high-demand careers.

Engage – Creating Community & Connection

- Organized 25+ networking and learning events, including HBCU Greek & Small Business Mixers, Hackathons, and Power Hours, fostering collaboration among students, alumni, and professionals.
- Supported 1,247 hours of mentorship connecting founders with corporate leaders and funders.
- Host 3 annual live in-person opportunities to pitch and refine business and app ideas with industry leaders through The Magic City Classic Business Pitch Competition, App Build & Pitch competition and Innovate Alabama Entrepreneurship Hackathon.
- Enabled 1,215 business ideas to be developed or strengthened through training, competitions, and startup labs.

Empower – Turning ideas into impact

- Distributed over \$80,000 in funding and prizes to student and community entrepreneurs.
- Helped launch or grow 50+ new business ventures and advance 8 HBCU-founded startups into national accelerator programs.
- Recognized over 135 participants with certifications or digital badges, validating new technical and entrepreneurial skills.
- Provided access to mentorship, internships, and career pathways that fuel sustainable growth in Alabama's innovation ecosystem.

The Alabama Collective has become a catalyst for inclusive innovation in Alabama, building the next generation of tech talent, founders, and changemakers.

Website:
www.thealabamacollective.com

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[The Alabama Collective](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-alabama-collective)

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