

EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW

EQUITY NOW 

April 2025



Beyond the Summit

,Dear Friends,

Because of you, the 2025 Global Youth Summit and Shark Tank became exactly what we'd hoped for—and so much more.

From the engaged volunteers who kept every session running smoothly, to our powerhouse speakers and judges who generously shared their expertise, and of course to our extraordinary youth participants—thank you. Your energy, commitment, and belief in what's possible when we invest in the next generation turned an ambitious vision into a memorable reality.

Over an exhilarating day, we watched bold ideas take flight. Young innovators stepped onto the Shark Tank stage, pitched with poise, and left with the

confidence (and seed funding!) to keep building. Workshops on entrepreneurship, leadership, and pitching with confidence sparked new questions—and new dreams. By the closing bell, participants walked away with practical tools, lifelong connections, and a renewed sense of possibility.

The summit may be over, but the work continues. In the coming weeks, we'll share highlights, success stories, and ways you can keep the momentum going—whether by mentoring a student entrepreneur, partnering on future programs, or simply cheering on the next milestone.

With gratitude,
Justin Devose
Financial Education Director

Financial Education

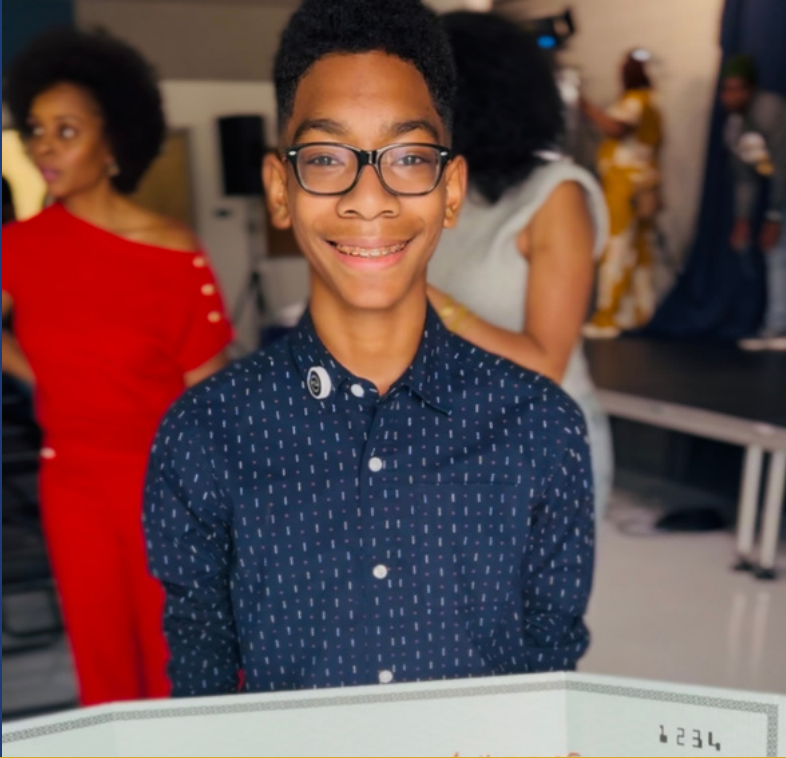


Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank

The stage lights have dimmed, but the energy of this year's Global Youth Summit & Youth Shark Tank is still buzzing. Our talented teams took everything they'd practiced—market research, elevator pitches, and nerves of steel—and delivered inspiring presentations that left the judges and audience in awe.

Top honors went to Turner Photo Booth Company, whose polished pitch and clear growth strategy earned the \$2,500 grand prize. We can't wait to watch them turn that seed funding into an even bigger success story.

From mental health tech to AI-powered prosthetics, every team demonstrated creativity, resilience, and an entrepreneurial spirit that makes us optimistic about the future. Over the coming weeks we'll share highlight reels, behind-the-scenes photos, and follow-up interviews so you can see how these ventures evolve—and discover ways to mentor, invest, or simply cheer them on. Thank you for being part of a community that believes in young innovators. The summit may be over, but the journey for these future leaders has only just begun!



Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank

The 2025 Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank on April 19th is designed to empower the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators. This Summit will unite young minds to participate in a dynamic learning environment focused on entrepreneurship, leadership, and personal finance.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
COMMITTED SPONSORS!**



CEO Spotlight

This month, CEO Shomari A. James joined local leaders and changemakers as a panelist at the WELL+TH Summit in Washington, D.C. The event, hosted by The Fresh Food Factory Market and UNIFI, explored the intersection of wealth-building and wellness in underserved communities.

Mr. James shared Equity Now's perspective on financial education, legacy-building, and the role of access in creating lasting change. We're proud to see his leadership continuing to inspire and shape conversations that move our communities forward.

Later this month, Mr. James will travel to Buffalo, NY to serve as a featured speaker at the Breaking Barriers Financial Empowerment Summit, hosted by Say Yes Buffalo. Held during Financial Literacy and Education Month, this free community event —“Getting to the Bag and Making it Work for You”—is designed to equip both youth and adults with practical tools to build stronger financial futures. Equity Now is honored to continue leading conversations that bridge access, education, and empowerment across communities.



Click below for CEO Shomari James' recent feature on the Breaking Barriers Buffalo podcast



Shomari's Financial Playbook:

Investing for Generational Wellness & Financial Liberation

Spring Clean Your Investments & Finances

Spring isn't just for decluttering your home, it's time to clean up your financial house too. Review all your investments, but not just your stock portfolio. Consider the myriad of aspects of your financial situation.

- Are you carrying bad debt, such as high-interest credit cards or loans? Now is the time to eliminate it. Remember the 30% credit card rule which is a general guideline that suggests you should never use more than 30% of your total credit limit on a credit card at any given time. For example, if you have a \$1,000 credit limit, you should aim to keep your balance below \$300 to maintain a strong credit score.
- Is your real estate portfolio performing well? If a property is losing money, reassess your strategy. Consider options like refinancing, increasing rental income, or even selling underperforming assets to reinvest in stronger opportunities.
- Are your stocks and retirement accounts aligned with your financial goals? Adjust and diversify as needed. Are your stocks and retirement accounts aligned with your financial goals? Adjust and diversify as needed. Review your asset allocation to ensure it matches your risk tolerance and long-term objectives, especially as market conditions change. Regularly rebalancing your portfolio helps keep you on track and prevents overexposure to any single investment, reducing overall risk. [Click here for a free Equity Now Risk Tolerance Worksheet.](#)
- Are your spending habits working for you? Small leaks in your budget can impact your ability to invest. Tracking where your money goes each month can reveal unnecessary expenses that, when redirected, could be used to build wealth instead of disappearing on impulse purchases. Even minor adjustments, like cutting unused subscriptions. How many streaming services do you have? The goal is to free up cash that, when invested consistently, grows into long-term financial security. [Click here for a free Equity Now Budget Template.](#)

The goal isn't just to invest more, but to create the strongest financial foundation possible for wealth-building.

Save the Date!

The Equity Now, Inc. Annual Gala will be held

October 11, 2025

Join us for an elegant evening of vision, community and impact!



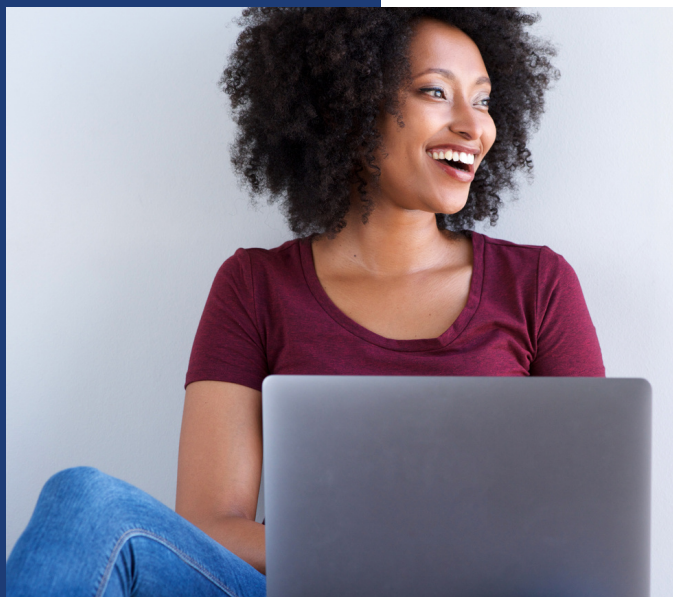
Join The Network

The Network is an online community platform designed to connect professionals from various industries and backgrounds. It allows members to discuss, share insights, seek advice, and collaborate.

Would you like to be part of our Community Engagement team?

Fill out our volunteer interest form to get involved!

Apply Now



GIVE

Your tax-deductible gift to Equity Now, Inc. provides Financial Education and other services designed to eliminate the wealth gap, improve community engagement, and advocate for social equity.

About Equity Now, Inc.

At Equity Now, we believe that Financial Education is a fundamental right, not a privilege. This is why we are dedicated to developing and implementing comprehensive Financial Education programs tailored for those historically underserved.

As the premier Charter School and Education Management Organization, our commitment to educational excellence is unwavering. We pride ourselves on fostering a dynamic learning environment that empowers students, engages dedicated educators, and embraces innovative teaching methodologies.



Expediting Change

Welcome to a podcast dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through Financial Education and personal growth. Join host Shomari James as he sits down with talent and sports marketing agent Ivory Tabb at the CIAA Conference in Baltimore.

