



**Abel Kah**

Born in Liberia, West Africa. Received two Associate degrees (AA & AS) from Des Moines Area Community College, 2018. Recently graduated from Grand View University with Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in Psychology. Served as one of the student speakers at commencement. Former Vice President of Clubs & Organizations, Grand View University Student Body Government. Former Multicultural Ambassador at Grand View University. Currently work as Skill Development Assistant at ChildServe. Resident Nurse at Iowa Methodist Medical Center beginning July 12. Serves as a volunteer facilitator at Alternative to Violence Project (AVP), Member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and Alpha Chi National Honor Society. Former Mentor at the Nexus Institute. Former Math & Science Tutor, TRIO Lab-DMACC Urban. Former Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at DMACC.

Recipient of the Golden Viking Award (Outstanding Growth Award) 2020, Viking of the Month of Diversity 2019, PBH Student Spotlight of the Week, GUV. Superior Service Award, TRIO/SSS DMACC, 2018. Diversity Scholar Award, DMACC 2018.



**Tulia Mulemba** the Assistant Director of Congolese Youth Connect. She has background in education. She has recently accepted a teaching position at Storm Lake High School in Storm Lake, IA after working as a Kindergarten teacher at AIRazy Academy in West Des Moines the past two years. She acquired her elementary teaching and TESOL education bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She is currently pursuing her MAT(Masters of Arts in

Teaching) with concentration 5-12 reading and 5-12 English language arts. Tulia is also involved as a Secretary at United Babondo Youth Foundation based in the United States, as well as her community church where she also teaches Sunday School. She is a strong advocate for youth, women, end to poverty, educational empowerment, especially for girls and an advocate for endangered languages.



**Tricia Gabriel** is the co-founder of Genesis Youth Foundation, a nonprofit that works to level the playing field for immigrant and refugee youth through access to athletics, the arts, and academic support. Tricia is originally from Liberia.

In 2009, Tricia and Sam Gabriel, founded Genesis Youth Foundation. She has served the youth immigrant and refugee in Des Moines, Iowa for over 12 years. Tricia works as a travel nurse and has experience in various nursing fields including mental health. She also obtained her bachelor's in nursing and is currently pursuing masters in mental health nurse practitioner.

Tricia continues to impact her community in a positive way by focusing on the youth because they are our leaders of tomorrow.



**Eric Idehen**

**OPX International, LLC. – Founder/President**

**Cornerstone of Hope Inc. – Founder/CEO**

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Eric Idehen was born in Nigeria, lived in the Ukraine and Spain and is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. He has been a community development and diversity consultant, as well as a banker and construction economist. His wide-ranging career trajectory has given him a tremendous wealth of experience to assist clients in the areas of diversity training and education, community development and leadership. Mr. Idehen joined Wells Fargo 2001, he is currently the Vice President of Community Relations, and have served WF for a combination of 17 years in several roles including teller, customer service representative, personal banker, community development and diversity consultant. In 2010, he was promoted to Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. He worked for Bank of the West 2012 - 2014 as Branch Sales Manager and briefly as the Unit Direct for the Ellis Levitt Boys and Girls Clubs in Des Moines, Iowa. He came back to Wells Fargo in 2014. Also, Mr. Idehen is the Owner/President of OPX International LLC, a consulting company.

Mr. Idehen has additional 16 years of experience in construction and real estate, working for companies such as VITA Construction Ltd (Nigeria), Gilda Nigeria Ltd (Nigeria), New Century Holding Advisors (Ukraine), and Construction Consultant (Spain).

In 2009, Mr. Idehen was one of 12 Arab American Business Fellows and Senior Advisory Council members sent to the Middle East (Dubai and Egypt). This opportunity came through the Business for Diplomatic Action program in association with the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy. He served as a business ambassador, engaging with local government leaders, business groups, NGO's, nonprofits, and media companies to identify emerging business opportunities in the region and how American businesses can best approach and work with Middle Eastern companies.

Numerous honors have been bestowed upon Mr. Idehen including recognition in 2010 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which presented him with the Director's Community Leadership Award. A year prior, he also received the Dr. David J. Wang Humanitarian Award from the Chinese Association of Iowa. In 2006, the Des Moines Register listed him as one of the top 30 Influential Business and Civic Leaders in Des Moines. At Wells Fargo, he has received numerous awards for his volunteering role and diversity efforts.

Mr. Idehen currently serves as a member of the following boards: Iowa Community Capitol (member), 6th Avenue Corridor (member), Cornerstone of Hope Inc. (Founder/Chairman), One Economy, Genesis Inc. (Advisor), and Greater Des Moines Partnership Equity and Inclusion Committee. Past organizations included Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizen Academy board (IA-NE), American Red Cross board, Latino Chambers of Commerce board, Iowa International Center board, Iowa Asian Alliance board, Iowa Literacy Council, Lutheran Church of Hope Council, etc.

Mr. Idehen is fluent in English, Spanish, Russian and 5 Nigerian dialects. He holds an undergrad degree in Quantity Surveying, Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Masters in Industrial & Organizational Psychology, and presently working on his Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, emphasis on Organizational Diversity and Social Change. In addition, He is a graduate of Wells Fargo & Company African American Leaders Program, and Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. Eric and wife live in Urbandale, has four children - Enrique, Edward, Elliott, and Devine.



**Eto Nesia Itabelo** is a North High School graduate and a Central College 3rd year student. She is currently studying Linguistics and Education. She works as an interpreter and translator at US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.



**Ungwa Itabelo** is a Junior at Central College majoring in Communication. She is involved in Central College's Drama club. She has had two successful seasons. Ungwa is currently working at CFUM (Child and Families Urban Movement). She volunteers at Congolese Youth Connect and Genesis Youth Foundation because she enjoys spending time helping others and she loves seeing the African community empowered and better.



**Nakia Diuedonne Inene** wants to be a hematologist and help people with blood disorders similar to his. He went to Weeks Middle School but will be attending Lincoln High School next year school year.