Black Entrepreneurs in Training (BET) is a Cornell program dedicated to inspiring, informing, and initiating the next wave of black student entrepreneurs. It was found that black students either weren’t aware of the entrepreneurship resources at Cornell, or they were aware but not confident enough to participate. BET empowers black students to take advantage of the vast portfolio of entrepreneurial resources Cornell has to offer with a year-long introduction to entrepreneurship, a close-knit community, and tailored support.

**PROGRAM VISION**

BET aims to increase the participation of students of color in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. In the short term, we want to increase the number of black, Cornellian entrepreneurs benefiting from Cornell’s vast entrepreneurial resources and programs. Our long term goal is to generate a visible group of black alumni that have founded successful companies. Ultimately, we want to change the national narrative of black entrepreneurship while preparing more black entrepreneurs to found startups that solve today’s most pertinent problems.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Our plan is to inspire our members through discussions with black entrepreneurs that are making an impact, inform our members through a series of entrepreneurial short courses, and initiate their ideas by helping them bring structure and clarity to the steps necessary to form a startup.

**INSPIRE**

**October - November**

The cohort will immerse themselves in entrepreneurship by networking with alumni and fellow entrepreneurs.
- Three “BE Talks”
  - Fireside chats with black entrepreneurs to discuss their outlook on entrepreneurship
  - Several workshops to simulate creative ideation and problem solving

**INFORM**

**December - January**

- The cohort will learn the formalities of entrepreneurship by attending workshops led by successful entrepreneurs
- Two Short Course Opportunities

**INITIATE**

**February - May**

- The cohort will launch a minimum viable product
- Each entrepreneur will be paired with a mentor
- Several workshops pertaining to the technical and detailed topics that will be relevant to entrepreneurs at this stage
- In May, each entrepreneur will pitch their startup/product at the culmination event