

bdpatoday®

JULY 2023

COULD SUPREME COURT DECISIONS HELP TECH?

The pivot to “race-neutral” applications, algorithms, and admissions has begun

p.9

BDPA SET TO HOST MORE TECH EVENTS THIS SUMMER

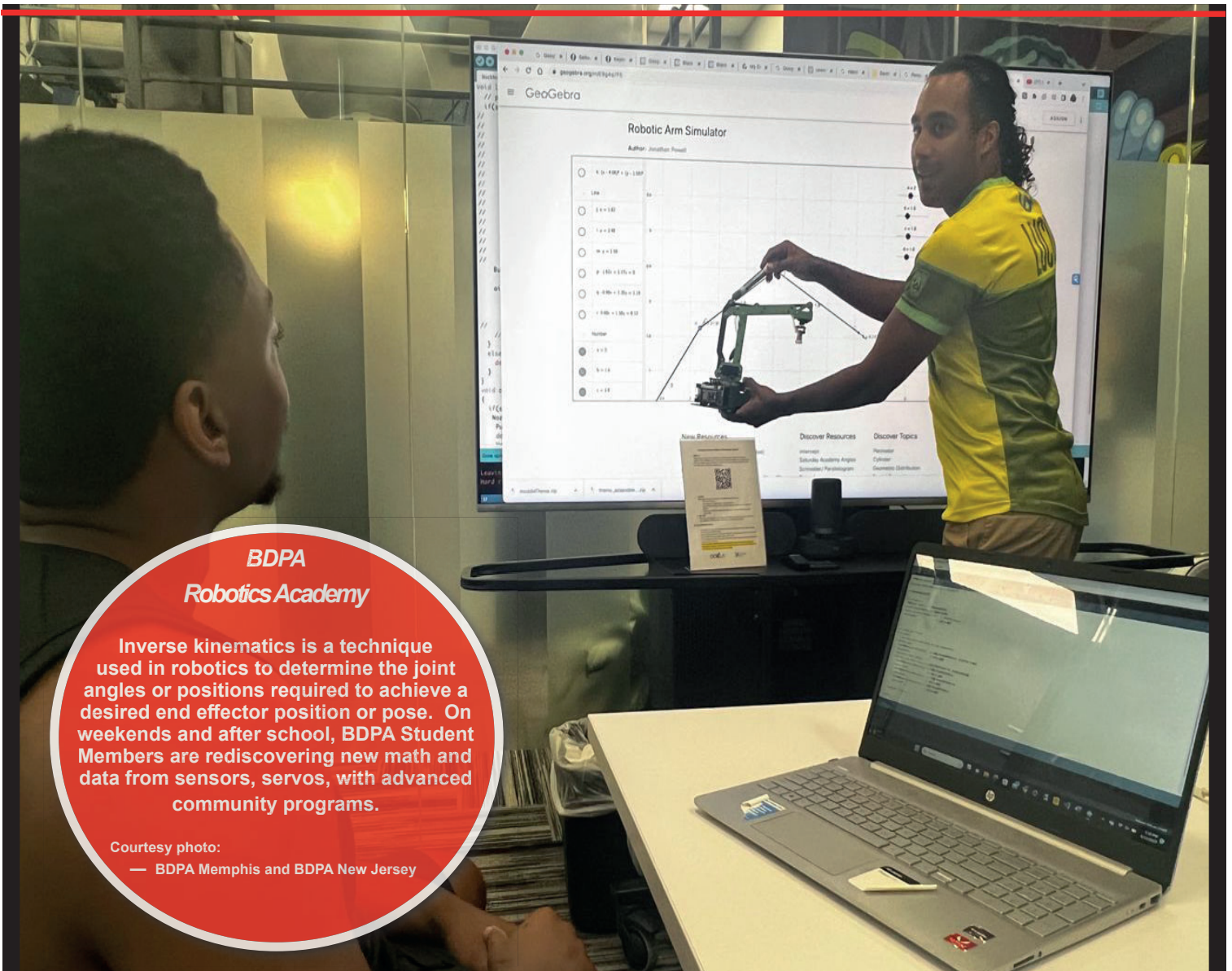
BDPACON23 convenes August 17-19, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia

p.10

NVIDIA AND SNOWFLAKE PARTNER FOR NEW AI APPS

Snowflake and NVIDIA help businesses harness data for generative AI in the cloud

p.10



BDPA
Robotics Academy

Inverse kinematics is a technique used in robotics to determine the joint angles or positions required to achieve a desired end effector position or pose. On weekends and after school, BDPA Student Members are rediscovering new math and data from sensors, servos, with advanced community programs.

Courtesy photo:
— BDPA Memphis and BDPA New Jersey



For 40 years, BDPA has enabled the upward mobility of African Americans and other minorities in the Information Technology (IT) and STEM fields. Through its 40+ local community chapters in major cities across the United States, BDPA has been at the forefront of promoting the minority agenda within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer in technology and STEM training for IT professionals and High School students since 1986.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Connect to a network of IT professionals
- Enhance and develop additional technical skill sets
- Acquire professional and leadership skills
- Participate actively in an organization that is setting trends in emerging technology
- Discount rates to the Annual Technology Conference and Career Fair
- Obtain exposure to technical and professional topics through program meetings, seminars and workshops
- Participate in certification support groups
- Discounts on IT certifications and training courses

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DELPHIA	13:13	13:42
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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BLACKS IN CYBERSECURITY HEADQUARTERS

Blacks in Cybersecurity Responds to Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action in College Admissions

Blacks in Cybersecurity (BIC) is issuing this statement in response to the recent landmark ruling by the Supreme Court regarding the use of race in college admissions. The ruling prohibits colleges and universities from considering race as a specific basis, overturning long-standing precedent that has provided benefits to Black and Latino students in higher education.

While this ruling presents challenges to race-conscious admissions policies, Blacks in Cybersecurity (BIC) remains unwavering in our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We firmly believe that diverse perspectives foster innovation and excellence in our field.

We are closely monitoring developments and collaborating with our partners to assess the impact of this ruling. Blacks in Cybersecurity (BIC) will continue to advocate for equitable access to education and opportunities for our underrepresented community in the Cybersecurity industry.

We want to assure you that Blacks in Cybersecurity (BIC) is here to support you during this evolving landscape.

- BIC Headquarters -

06.30.2023

Keena Williams
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Blacks in Cybersecurity
keena@bichq.org
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— BDPA photo

BDPA Launches 45th Annual BDPACON in 2023

BDPACON23 Returns to Atlanta

ATLANTA — BDPA looks forward to welcoming you and your organization to Atlanta, GA for its 45th Annual BDPA Technology Conference and Career Expo. These conferences are open to both students and professionals in STEM and all digital technology fields. The Association also invites those in emerging professions and industries that increasingly rely on data technology to enhance their work to join the annual convening, which is highly immersive and transformative

If you are a BDPA Member, contact the association at helpdesk@bdpa.org to receive special discount code(s) for BDPA Members.

To participate, speakers, presenters, panelists, BDPA Members, Student Members, and exhibitors visit: conference.bdpa.org to pre-register.

The conference will be held August 17th – 19th, 2023 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, GA. Register today. Join BDPA this year during the 45th Annual BDPA Technology National Conference, where the theme is **Future Now!**
bt

View related articles at → bdpatoday.com



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Empowering the Next Generation of Technology Leaders in the U.S. Foreign Service

■ ■ ■ ■

The Foreign Affairs Information Technology (FAIT) Fellowship is designed for highly talented individuals who want to pursue an IT-related bachelor's or master's degree and a career as a Foreign Service Information Management Specialist (IMS), supporting diplomacy through technology around the world.

As one of several high-profile U.S. Department of State diversity recruitment programs, the FAIT Fellowship focuses on attracting and growing top technology talent that reflects the diversity of the United States. Women, members of minority groups underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need, are encouraged to apply.

FOREIGN
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Fellowship

As a FAIT Fellow, you will receive:

- **Up to \$43,500 annually** (for two years) in academic funding for tuition, room and board, books, mandatory fees and some travel expenses.
- **Two summer internships** (with up to \$11,000 in stipend support): one at a domestic office of the Department of State in Washington, D.C. and one overseas at a U. S. embassy or consulate.
- **Orientation** to the Foreign Affairs IT Fellowship program, the Foreign Service career path and to the Department of State.
- **Professional development**, including a 10-week series during the first summer internship in D.C.
- **Mentoring** from a Foreign Service IMS throughout the duration of the fellowship.
- **An appointment** as a Foreign Service IMS upon successful completion of the program and Foreign Service entry requirements. Fellows agree to a minimum five-year commitment upon entry into the Foreign Service.

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be enrolled full-time in an IT-related bachelor's degree program **OR** seeking admission to an IT-related master's degree program at a U.S.-based accredited institution.
- Be on a timeline to graduate with your bachelor's or master's degree in spring 2025 while enrolled full-time for spring and fall semesters.
- Hold a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale at the time of the application, and maintain this GPA throughout the program.



To learn more and apply, visit FAITFellowship.org



As a FAIT Fellow, you must:

- Attend the orientation in Washington, D.C., which takes place in June after selection.
- Obtain and maintain [medical and security clearances and suitability requirements](#).
- Maintain your status as a full-time student (fall and spring semesters) in your approved degree program.
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA and stay on the two-year timeline to graduate with your degree.
- Fulfill the summer internship obligations during your first year and second year as a FAIT Fellow.
- Agree to a minimum five-year commitment with the Foreign Service upon successful completion of the program and Foreign Service requirements.
- Be prepared to enter the Foreign Service after you complete the two-year fellowship.

As a Foreign Service IMS, you will:

- Safeguard communications and promote transparent, interconnected diplomacy throughout more than 270 U.S. embassies, consulates and missions abroad.
- Have the unique opportunity to engage in diplomacy and make a positive impact worldwide – all while developing yourself personally and professionally.
- Experience daily the challenge and excitement of a career at the intersection of information technology and foreign affairs.

Are You Ready to Start Your Journey?



FAITFellowship.org



FAITFellowship@twc.edu

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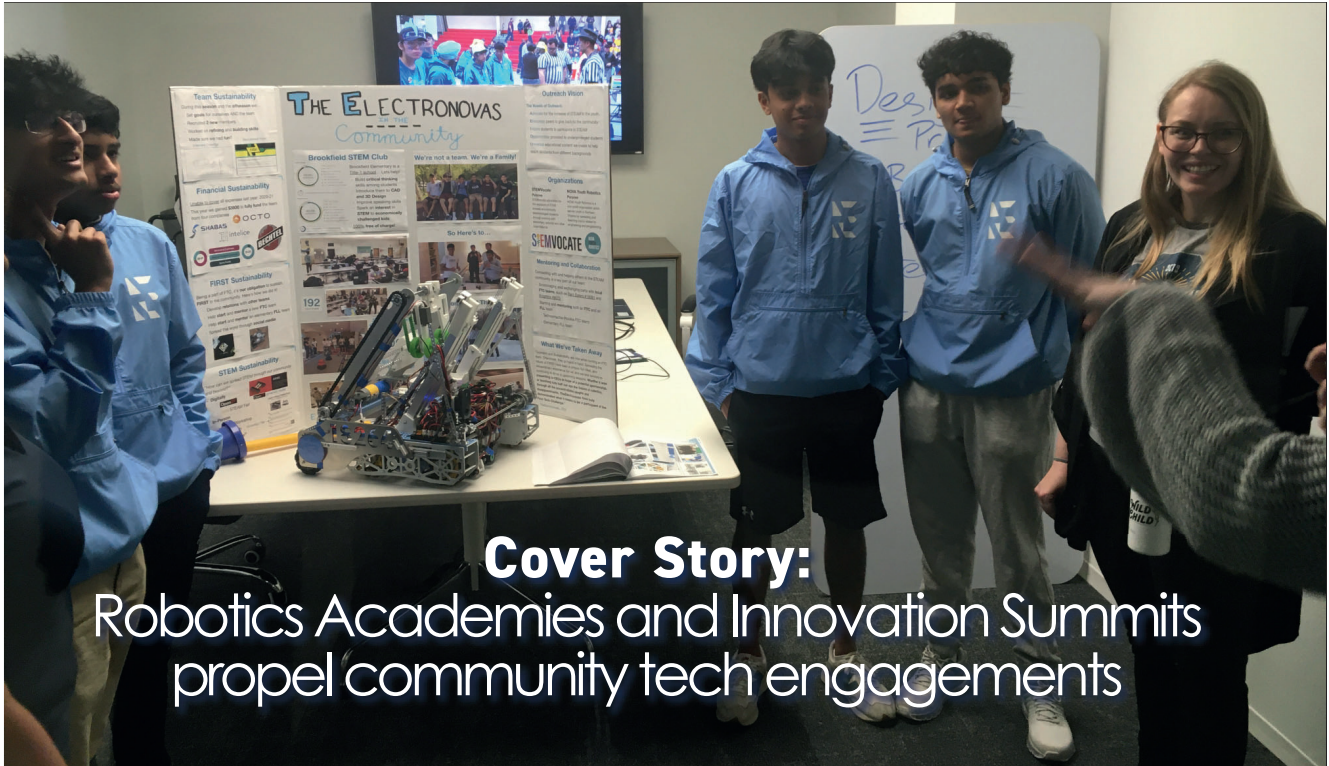
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Cover Story: Robotics Academies and Innovation Summits propel community tech engagements

(Above) One of Northern Virginia's robotics teams, *The ELECTRONOVAS*, deliver presentations and demonstrations at oLabs™ during *CyberEarth23*, BDPA's seventh annual Earth Day Tech Summit hosted by Octo Consulting Group, an IBM Company. oLabs™ is Octo's Center for Innovation, a collaborative prototyping and experimentation space in Reston, Virginia leveraging emerging technologies.

(Right) BDPA Student Members and HSCC coding teams participate in robotics demonstrations at Bowie State University during BDPA's annual Regional Innovation Summits.

—bdpatoday® photos © BDPA-DC

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (BDPA New Jersey) — National BDPA's New Jersey Chapter announced last quarter the 2023 launch of BDPA's Robotics Academy sponsored by Johnson & Johnson.

The 8-week hybrid program is designed to teach students the fundamentals of robotics and precision robotics, specifically using robotic arms in the medical and surgical realms.

There is no cost to participate in this unique opportunity, and BDPA's host chapter invited interested students from regional HBCUs and colleges and universities in New Jersey to join them for this transformative experience.

Program Details

Dates:
June 3rd - July 29th, 2023



Format:
Hybrid program with virtual sessions and in-person workshops

Location:
In-person sessions are conducted at Johnson & Johnson's headquarters facilities in New Brunswick, NJ

Target Audience:
Freshmen through graduating seniors interested in robotics from HBCUs and other schools

within BDPA's Northeast Region.

Virtual components of this year's robotics academy sessions are nationally available.

BDPA's Robotics Academy is an effective way to introduce programming to Student Members and provides new skills and experiences useful in future employment. **bt**



Could New U.S. Supreme Court Decisions Increase Career Opportunities in Tech?

WASHINGTON—This year's U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decision on affirmative action, ending the use of race as a factor in college admission decisions, is an unresolved complex issue yielding many new implications. The Justices considered whether admissions systems used by Harvard College and the University of North Carolina were lawful under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. It is not yet clear how SCOTUS' decisions to strike down affirmative action paired with invalidating student loan forgiveness will directly impact student opportunities and STEM pipelines in our tech industry; however, it is extremely important to note that government agencies, corporations, small businesses, and BDPA mission partners across America have relied on institutions of higher education for decades to deliver a diverse and well-prepared workforce.

To meet and exceed emerging demands from our industry, state and local appropriators will increase funding to train, staff, upskill, and equip technology programs while concurrently authorizing more community technology grants for non-profit STEM organizations.

For BDPA, these efforts have remained highly successful since 1986 and are accomplished through career day participation with local schools across all industry sectors, and interactive STEM fairs. Other programs BDPA offers for Student Members and Full Members through the Association's SITES Portfolio will continue to help members pre-qualify for institutions of higher education, trade schools, and scholarships. **bt**

— Sources and photo:
BDPA-DC, SCOTUS

BDPA's Renowned SITES Programs and Competition Series Enters its 37th Season



(Above) BDPA Student Members and Jr. Developers from Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. attend BDPACON East '23 in Baltimore, Maryland.

BALTIMORE (BDPA)—BDPA announced in January seasonal kick-offs for I.T. showcases, coding, and mobile app development. The association's 2023 SITES competitions are open and currently available for new and aspiring research analysts, social scientists, tech writers, systems engineers, and junior developers (JrDevs). Annually, SITES coordinators' names and emails from participating BDPA Chapters are provided to National BDPA in January.

BDPA's SITES Program

Launched in 1986 by Dr. Jesse Bemley, the association's **Student Information Technology Education and Scholarship (SITES)** program falls under the association's STEM+ pillar. This program was created to expose our youth to the concepts of computers and give them the expertise to develop web, internet-of-things (IoT), edge computing, and mobile applications.

BDPA's renowned National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) program which is a hands-on software development program for high school students, has introduced tens of thousands of high school students to coding and application development while presenting opportunities for students to obtain technical college scholarships due to corporate leadership commitments of mission partners and local sponsors. Because of BDPA's focus on students and professional members alike, BDPA continues to support and lead the upward success of its members "from the classroom to the boardroom". **bt**

Source and photos: BDPA-DC

BDPA Set to Launch More Tech Events this Summer

BDPACON South opens in Monroe, LA as BDPACON23 Returns to Atlanta



(Above) BDPA Students from BDPA's Los Angeles Chapter meet during a break from HSCC coding competitions at BDPACON11 (2011) in Baltimore, Maryland.

MONROE, LA—BDPA Monroe launches its STEM Academy this summer from July 24-28, at the Emily P. Robinson Center in Monroe, Louisiana. This “Summer Tech Splash” is an introduction to IT Workforce and career development.

In August, this year’s annual gathering of developers, coders, delegates, and HBCU alumni at BDPACON will be held August 17th – 19th, 2023 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, GA during the 45th Annual BDPA Technology National Conference and Career Fair, where the theme is **Future Now!**

To participate during BDPACON23, speakers, presenters, panelists, BDPA Members, Student Members, and exhibitors may visit: bdpa.org to pre-register. **bt**

View related articles at → bdpatoday.com

— Photo credit: Host Chapter/**BDPA Baltimore**

—Sources: **BDPA Atlanta/BDPA Monroe**

NVIDIA and Snowflake Partner for New Ai Apps

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Snowflake, the Data Cloud Company, and NVIDIA announced at Snowflake Summit 2023 that they are partnering to provide businesses of all sizes with an accelerated path to create customized generative AI applications using their own proprietary data, all securely within the Snowflake Data Cloud.

With the NVIDIA NeMo™ platform for developing large language models (LLMs) and NVIDIA

GPU-accelerated computing, Snowflake will enable enterprises to use data in their Snowflake accounts to make custom LLMs for advanced generative AI services, including chatbots, search and summarization. The ability to customize LLMs without moving data enables proprietary information to remain fully secured and governed within the Snowflake platform. **bt**

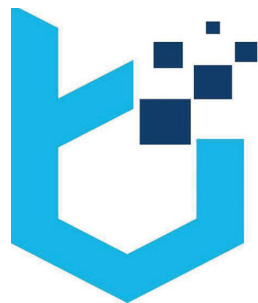
— Sources: Snowflake/NVIDIA



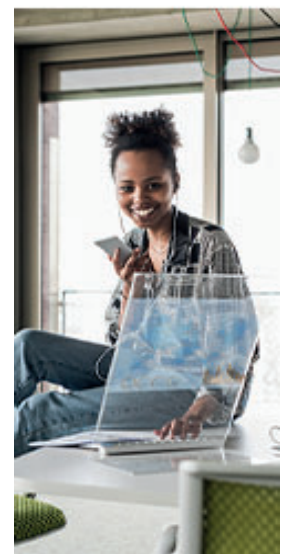
(Above) NVIDIA DGX Cloud image.

— Photo credit: **NVIDIA**

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KANIKA TOLVER

CREATING EPIC LIVES

Kanika Tolver is no ordinary "social-preneur." This highly decorated information technology Federal Government professional, rebel entrepreneur and Certified Professional Coach is a serial innovator who's fueled by an extraordinary commitment to social change and helping others create their own "epic lives." Tolver is also an advocate that promotes "people of color" becoming more involved in science and technology.

Kanika is the Founder and Career Coach of Career Rehab, LLC in Washington, DC. Career Rehab focuses on assisting career transformations for students, professionals and retirees. Her company provides career coaching programs, events, webinars, and digital resources to help people reach their career goals. Kanika is an in-demand coach, consultant, speaker and thought leader who's often tapped as an expert source for the media, having been featured on CNN, CBS Radio, Yahoo, Glassdoor, Entrepreneur, the Washington Post and in a variety of radio interviews.

Tolver is also author of the acclaimed title, Career Rehab: Rebuild Your Personal Brand and Rethink the Way You Work. In Career Rehab, Tolver helps readers strip away what's holding them back to create the career of their dreams. Readers learn how to create an online brand presence, market an authentic personal brand, and sell their brand-offering expertise and skills.

MEDIA:



TOPICS:

- Create a Diverse Workplace: Recruit and Retain Minorities in Tech
- How to Attract, Recruit and Retain Women in Tech
- Be a Brand and Not an Employee
- Build Your Brand By Dating Jobs

CLIENTS:

- Microsoft
- VMware
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TESTIMONIALS:

"I had the pleasure of working with Kanika when she moderated a panel that I was on where we spoke about helping Women in Tech advance their careers. Kanika speaks with confidence and passion."
- Jessica Finnigan, Indeed

"Kanika Tolver is an extraordinary speaker, author and career coach. Kanika's book Career Rehab really resonated with our professionals. Kanika is an amazing personal branding expert and thought leader."
- Karen Jackson, Microsoft

#TheBDPAStory

A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.



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BDPA MONROE
PRESENTS

The background of the poster is a vibrant beach scene. It features two large green palm trees on the left and right sides. In the center, there is a brown house with a window, a yellow sun, and two smaller palm trees. The ocean is a bright blue-green color, and a person is surfing on a yellow and green surfboard. The text 'Summer TECH SPLASH' is written in a large, bubbly, orange and white font. Below this, the text 'INTRODUCTION TO IT WORKFORCE & CAREER DEVELOPMENT' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The dates and times 'July 24-28 | 9 AM-3PM' are enclosed in a black-bordered box. Below the box, the location 'EMILY P ROBINSON CENTER' is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are details about the event, including 'FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO BDPA STEM ACADEMY', 'FREE LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS', and 'FREE TECH GIVEAWAYS DAILY'. The RSVP information 'RSVP INFO@BDPAMLA.ORG SHAKIRA WILKES | 318 582 1706' is also provided. On the right side, there are two vertical banners: a pink one with 'Cyber' and a blue one with 'Hackathon'. At the bottom left, there is a beach umbrella, a lounge chair, and a life preserver. At the bottom right, there is a large orange starfish.

INTRODUCTION TO IT WORKFORCE
& CAREER DEVELOPMENT

July 24-28 | 9 AM-3PM

EMILY P ROBINSON CENTER

**FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP
TO BDPA STEM ACADEMY
FREE LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS
FREE TECH GIVEAWAYS DAILY**

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Cyber

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The Westin Peachtree Plaza
ATLANTA, GA
AUGUST 18-19, 2023

Join Us!

- Bring your resume & upload to the portal
- Network with top companies
- On-the-spot interviews during conference

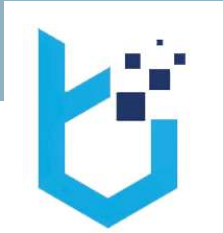


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