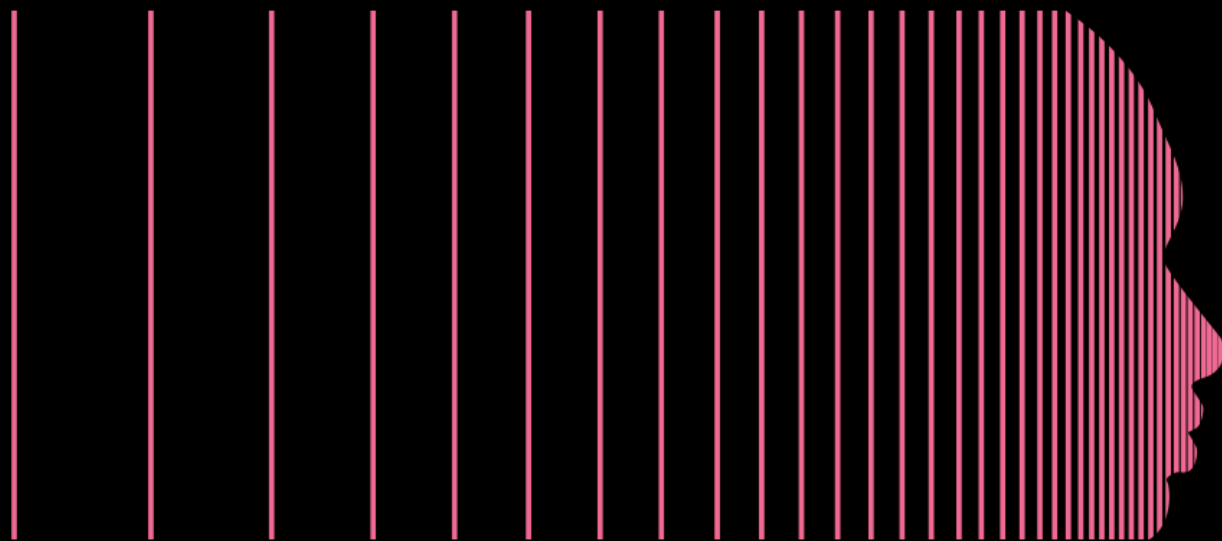


OPTICA
FOUNDATION



AMPLIFY
OPTICS IMMERSION
PROGRAM

25 - 28 October 2025
Denver, Colorado, USA

optica.org/AmplifyImmersion

Founding Donor



Table of Contents

- ◆ Amplify Optics Immersion Program
 - ◆ Small Group Project
 - ◆ Speaker Information
 - ◆ Attendee Information
 - ◆ 2025 Amplify Scholarship Recipients
-

Amplify Black Voices in Science

There are scientists and engineers worldwide who exemplify Black achievement in science. However, inequalities in access and opportunities, as well as disparities in recognition and visibility, have resulted in a persistent underrepresentation of Black scientists. At Optica, we have committed ourselves to working to change this, particularly for our optics and photonics community.

The *Amplify Optics Immersion Program* is one example of this commitment. With generous support from Edmund Optics, this program is designed to highlight the research, technology, and career opportunities for Black undergraduate and master's students. Co-located with Optica's annual meeting *Frontiers in Optics (FiO)*, participating students attend a dedicated program and participate in FiO technical and professional development sessions and student activities.

Learn more about the Amplify Black Voices programs and other funding and engagement opportunities at optica.org/CommunityEngagement.

Optica Code of Conduct & Anti-Harassment Policy

In order to preserve a climate that encourages both civil and fruitful dialogue, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate participation for anyone who violates the Optica Code of Conduct. It is Optica policy that all forms of bullying, discrimination, and harassment, sexual or otherwise, are prohibited in any Optica events or activities, including digital forums. Harassment consists of unwanted, unwelcomed and uninvited comments or behavior that demeans, threatens or offends another. For complete policy information visit optica.org/codeofconduct. If you wish to report bullying, discrimination, or harassment you have witnessed or experienced, you may do so through the following methods:

- use the online portal optica.org/IncidentReport
- email CodeOfConduct@optica.org

Amplify Optics Immersion Program Agenda

25-28 October 2025 ♦ Denver, Colorado, USA

Saturday 25 October 2025

Afternoon **Arrivals & Hotel Check-In**
Sonesta Denver Downtown

17:30 – 19:00 **Welcome Reception**
Lockwood, Sonesta Denver Downtown

Sunday 26 October 2025

07:30 – 08:30 **Breakfast**
Room 2C
Colorado Convention Center

08:45 – 09:00 **Welcome**
Room 2B
Elizabeth Nolan, CEO, Optica, USA
Sarah Moore, Outreach Specialist, Optica, USA

09:00 – 09:30 **Introductions & Kick-off with Master of Ceremonies**
Kenneth Barber, Edmund Optics, USA

09:30 – 10:15 **Enabled By Optics: The Landscape of Optics and Photonics**
Fabrication, Design and Instrumentation Division Chair
Image Acquisition Processing and Display Division Chair
Optical Interaction Science Division Chair
Photonics & Opto-electronics Division Chair

10:15 – 10:45 **Enabled by Optics: Photonics for a Better World**
Bio-Medical Optics Division Chair
Quantum Division Chair
Sensing Division Chair

10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **When Life Gives You Lemons**
Bienenvu Ndagano, INRS, Canada

12:00 – 13:00 **Networking Lunch with the Optica Foundation Board of Directors and Student Leadership**

13:00 – 13:30 **Lunch Debrief**

Sunday 26 October 2025 cont.

13:30 - 14:00 Room 2B	Group Project Overview George Okyere Dwapanyin, <i>University of St Andrews, UK</i>
14:00 - 14:30	Industry Career Insights Jaylond Martins, <i>Edmund Optics, USA</i> Faezeh Gholami, <i>IBM, USA</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 15:30	Doing Cool S#!* With Optics Andrew Fisher, <i>Edmund Optics, USA</i> Ivy Krystal Jones, <i>Norfolk State University, USA</i> Benjamin Cromey, <i>BAE Systems, Inc., USA</i>
15:30 - 16:30	Being Black in STEM Kenneth Barber, <i>Edmund Optics, USA</i> Joshua Burrow, <i>Morgan State University, USA</i> Anthony Johnson, <i>UMBC, USA</i> Ivy Krystal Jones, <i>Norfolk State University, USA</i> Jaylond Martins, <i>Edmund Optics, USA</i> Bienenvu Ndagano, <i>INRS, Canada</i> George Okyere Dwapanyin, <i>University of St Andrews, UK</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Being Black in STEM Debrief
17:00 - 17:30	What's Next? Kenneth Barber, <i>Edmund Optics, USA</i>
17:30 Rock Bottom Brewery	Joint Student Leadership Party

Monday 27 October 2025

07:30 - 08:30 Room 2C	Breakfast
08:30 - 09:30 Room 2B	A Nearly 45-Year Career Encompassing Optical Physics & Optoelectronics, Diversity and Mentoring Anthony Johnson, <i>UMBC, USA</i>
09:30 - 12:00	Small Group Project Work Time – see the project page for details
12:00 - 13:30 Room 3B	DLS Symposium on Undergraduate Research Joint Lunch & Programming

Monday 27 October 2025, cont.

13:30 – 17:00 Small Group Project Work Time – see the project page for details

17:15 – 18:15 **Group Project Presentations**
Room 2B

18:30 – 19:30 **Joint DLS Symposium Dinner**
Ace Eat and Serve
501 E 17th Ave

Tuesday 28 October, 2025

07:30 – 08:30 **Breakfast**
Room 2C

08:00 – 08:30 **Breakfast Talk: A Word About Frontiers in Optics from the Chairs**
Room 2C
Liangcai Cao, *Tsinghua University, China*
Alexey Turukhin, *Cisco Systems, USA*

09:15 – 10:00 **FiO Visionary Session II: Virtual Reality and Augmented Vision**
Room 2A Mile High
Historical and Future Perspectives of Virtual and Augmented Reality Systems
Presenter: Hong Hua, *University of Arizona, USA*

10:00 – 11:30 **FiO Plenary Talk: Superposition, Entanglement and Schrödinger's Cat**
Four Seasons Ballroom 1
David Wineland, *University of Oregon, USA*

10:00 – 15:30 **WorkinOptics Career Zone**
Exhibit Floor

11:30 – 13:00 **FiO Poster Session 1**
Four Seasons Ballroom 4

Afternoon **Departures – note: hotel check out is 11:00**

Amplify Small Group Project

This project will help you get the most out of the rest of the program. You can practice your networking skills and learn more about the depth and breadth of optics, opportunities in the field, and the community.

THE RULES

Objective: Attend talks, poster sessions, networking sessions, or other activities throughout Monday and talk with Optica members or FiO attendees. At the end of the day, your team will prepare and deliver a **5-minute** presentation highlighting your team's experiences and what you learned.

Teams: See the team assignments to find your team. You can choose a team name that reflects your shared objectives.

Tips: Consider what you want to share during your presentation for this “choose your own adventure” activity. For example, you could:

1. Summarize the most exciting or surprising concepts you learned from a technical session you attended.
2. Identify real-world applications of optics you learned about from a conversation with someone from a company.
3. Identify what you believe is the "next big thing" in optics and why it holds such potential.
4. Explain a new career opportunity in optics you weren't aware of.
5. Other – GET CREATIVE!

Presentation and Evaluation: Each team will prepare a 5-minute presentation summarizing their findings and discoveries. Your team must complete at least 3 different activities/conversations, you will be judged on:

- Creativity and innovation in completing the activities
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Presentation skills (clarity, organization, visual aids)
 - Slides, Props, Pictures, Guest stars, Demo, etc. (be creative!)

THE PRIZE

The Amplify speakers and mentors will be the judges, and the team with the best presentation will win a prize.

Frontiers in Optics Recommended Programming

Below are events and activities you might use to accomplish your three required activities. You can see what else is happening around Frontiers in Optics Conference at frontiersinoptics.com. Note: the activities with a (*) are required and cannot be used as one of your three activities.

- | | |
|--|--|
| * 08:30 – 09:30
Room 2B | A Nearly 45-Year Career Encompassing Optical Physics & Optoelectronics, Diversity and Mentoring
Anthony Johnson, UMBC, USA |
| 09:30 – 16:30 | Small Group Project Work Time |
| 08:00 – 18:00
Various | Technical Sessions
View: www.frontiersinoptics.com/home/schedule |
| 10:00 – 11:00
Optica Member Lounge | Optica Publishing Group Meet the Journal Editors |
| 10:30 – 15:30
Room 2B | Optica Foundation Challenge Symposia
Environment Symposium
10:30 – 11:30
Information Symposium
11:30 – 12:30
Health Symposium
14:00 – 15:30 |
| * 12:00 – 13:00
Room 2C | DLS Symposium on Undergraduate Research Joint Lunch |
| 12:45 – 13:45
Room 1D | Next-Generation Environmental Sensing Enabled by Optical and Photonic Technologies |
| 13:00 – 16:00
Room 2B | DLS Undergraduate Symposium Talks & Poster Session |
| * 17:15-18:15
Room 2B | Small Group Project Presentations |

Group Assignments

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Devonte Parker	Eronice Souza	Curtis Jordan	Denise Delali Sabrah
Joshua Ehizibolo	Daniel Harrison	Bakpen Kombat	Deborah Amos Adigun
Olabisi Olayinka	Ephraim Rodgers	David Chinedu Okeudo	Fadhimah Mohamed
Jabari Austin	Dominic Davis	Leiyla Brent	Daniel Mina Palacios
Etebong Ibekwe	Wilhelmina Jones	Emmanuel Amoako	Favour Oni

Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
Preston Jackson	Robert Owusu	Sidy Ndongue	Victoria Mends
Ebubechukwu (Camilus) Ugada	Cenia Sims	Tasha Cummins	Elijah Avery
Ebenezer Armah	Astrid Dzotcha	Chevel Samuels	Kyra Watts
Nytica Artiaga	Dan Ahimbisibwe	Jebril Thaxton	Sarah Loewecke
Christopher Metellus	Sayori Gordon	Fatima Kamara	Pashlene Naidoo
			Emeka Eze

Master of Ceremonies

Kenneth Barber



Kenneth has more than 24 years of experience in the photonics industry specializing in Project Management and Product Development. During his career, he founded and helped develop Edmund Optics' Project Management department and New Product Introduction process. As Director of Engineering and Project Management, he leads a global team of Designers and Project Managers in the US, China and Germany in the development of new products. Kenneth holds a graduate certification in Project Management from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and received his BS in Optics

from the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. Other accomplishments and activities include:

- Founder and Co-chair of Edmund Optics' US Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
- Published Articles contributed to Optics that focus on manufacturing

Program Speakers & Mentors

Joshua Burrow



Dr. Joshua A. Burrow is a Hibbitt Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Engineering at Brown University. He earned his B.S. degrees in Physics and Mathematics with a concentration in Engineering from Morehouse College, a liberal arts HBCU located in Atlanta, GA. He then obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees as a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellow in the Electro-Optics and Photonics Department at the University of Dayton under the direction of Profs. Jay Mathews and Imad Agha, respectively. His graduate school work spanned a myriad of topics within light-matter interactions including plasmonic metasurfaces for biological sensing and 5G communications, as well as designing and developing high-speed tunable photonic materials such as chalcogenide phase change materials to dynamically tune properties of light at the nanoscale. Since joining the PROBE Laboratory led by Prof. Kimani C. Toussaint Jr's, Joshua has expanded his research to bio-photonics where he noninvasively investigates a variety of inorganic and organic systems, at mesoscopic scales, through the development of advanced optical microscopy techniques. Joshua pursues several other research topics including optical tweezing, non-linear optics, and physiological monitoring using structured light and spatially varying polarized wavefronts. Concurrently, he is also working with 2022 Amplify Scholar, Ms. Rutendo Jakachira to develop an equitable and accurate pulse oximeter for black individuals in clinical settings. Additionally, he is and has been actively involved in student development and outreach for many years throughout his career. He was a two-term president of Optica chapters both at Morehouse College and the University of Dayton. Most notably, he co-organized with Purdue University the IONS Midwest-US 2019 international conference that hosted over 100 students. He has attended Congressional Visits, advocating for optics and photonics. Presently, he serves as co-advisor to the Brown University Optics Society (BRUNOS). Joshua is also a past student representative and executive board member of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP) and the co-founder of the Student Leadership Development Summit. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball, traveling, and trying new cuisines.

Benjamin Crome



2023 Optica Ambassador Dr. Benjamin Crome is a principal optical engineer at BAE Systems, Inc, Space and Mission Systems. He received his PhD in optical sciences from the University of Arizona in 2020. His work includes key roles on NASA missions such as the Roman Space Telescope Wide Field Instrument, and R&D efforts to prepare for the Habitable Worlds Observatory. He has

authored more than 30 publications, and actively serves the scientific community in a variety of capacities across SPIE, Optica, and the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation.

George Okyere Dwapanyin



George O. Dwapanyin is a Ghanaian early career researcher. He received his Bachelor of Science in Physics in 2009 from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He worked with the Radiation Protection Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission where he was part of the pioneering team for non-ionising radiation protection. He was then awarded the Erasmus Mundus scholarship which saw him complete his master's degree in Optics and Photonics from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany as well as the European masters in Photonics Engineering, Nanophotonics and Biophotonics from the Polytechnic University of Catalunya, Spain. His PhD in Physics was awarded by Stellenbosch University, South Africa in 2020 where his research led to the development of multimodal nonlinear imaging systems for biophotonics applications. This research also led to the first real world application of time domain ptychography in imaging. George has served as a reviewer and mentor for several committees within Optica and beyond. He is currently a research fellow with the Optical Manipulation Group at the University of St Andrews in the UK where his research currently dwells around advanced imaging techniques and Raman spectroscopy.

Andrew Fisher



Andrew Fisher is a Manufacturing Engineering Manager at Edmund Optics. After receiving a BS in Optical Engineering and an MS in Optics from the University of Rochester's Institute of Optics he joined Edmund Optics in 2012. Originally working with the product support team and then R&D department, the majority of his time at Edmund has been spent in manufacturing. He has over 10 years of experience in glass CNC fabrication and metrology, focused primarily on extremely short lead time custom optical components, as well as several years creating diamond turned aluminum mirrors. While at Edmund, Andrew has helped to build a robust educational outreach program that is now managed full time by a dedicated coordinator and supported by employee volunteers. This group has taught hundreds of students over the years, touching on all levels of education (from elementary up to college) and many different methods (from in-class lessons to hands-on demos to on-site facility tours). He is also an original member of Edmund's Global Sustainability Committee, which formed several years ago to take a dedicated look at environmentally-focused initiatives both within the company and the overall optics industry.

Faezeh Gholami



Faezeh Gholami is a Lead I/O Subsystem Hardware Architect and Senior IBM Quantum Ambassador at IBM. She has a PhD in Electrical Engineering with a focus on Optical Communication from the University of California - San Diego and a micro-MBA from Rady School of Management. Prior to IBM, Fae had worked in multiple startups focusing on Integrated Hardware Design. She is an IEEE and Optica Senior Member and the former Chair of the Optica Fiber Optics Technology Technical Group. Fae is an advocate for building the women's pipeline in engineering and technology through engagements in the Society of Women Engineers and IBM Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools. She is a 2022 Optica Ambassador.

Anthony Johnson



After receiving a B.S. in Physics from Polytechnic Institute of New York (Brooklyn), U.S. in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Physics in 1981 from the City College of New York (CCNY/CUNY), Johnson spent 14 years conducting research at AT&T Bell Laboratories. He joined the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in 1995. At NJIT he was chairperson and distinguished professor of physics for eight years prior to joining the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) in August 2003. He is currently the director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Photonics Research (CASPR) and is a professor of physics as well as a professor of computer science and electrical engineering (CSEE) at UMBC. His research has been in the general area of ultrafast optics and optoelectronics. He has published over 80 refereed papers, two book chapters and holds four U.S. patents. He has provided unceasing service to the optics community as an active member of several professional organizations and scientific commissions.

His roles have included: Editor-in-Chief of Optics Letters (1995-2001); member of Optica's Board of Directors and Board of Editors; member of the National Research Council's Committee on Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Science and the Board on Assessment of NIST Programs; member of the governing boards of the American Institute of Physics and IEEE LEOS (now IEEE Photonics Society) and the Executive Board of the American Physical Society and a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee. He has also served on the program committees for CLEO (Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics) and the LEOS Annual Meeting and co-chaired CLEO in 1992.

Johnson is the recipient of APS's 1996 Edward A. Bouchet Award. He is a fellow of Optica, APS, IEEE, AAAS, National Society of Black Physicists, and elevated to IEEE Life Fellow in 2020. In 2021, he received the Stephen D. Fantone Distinguished Service Award "for decades of principled leadership and steadfast service to The Optical Society and to the optics community, and especially for serving as a tireless ambassador for Optica." He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences in 2021. He has also served as co-chair of the Women & Minorities in Optics Committee (1994-1998). In 2000, he was elected Vice President of Optica and served consecutively as President-Elect, President in 2002, and Past President the following year. He remains active with the Society and sits on the Presidential Advisory Committee and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Rapid Action Committee. Currently, he is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Board on Physics & Astronomy (BPA) (2024-) and a member of the APS Physics Policy Committee (PPC) (2023).

Ivy Krystal Jones



Dr. Jones completed a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at Marquette University in the Department of Mechanical Engineering working in the Shock Physics Laboratory working on dynamic behavior material analysis from 2018-2019 becoming an Optica Ambassador in 2018. She was an adjunct faculty professor, instructor, and lecturer at Wilbur Wright College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S. Truman College, Blitstein Institute for Women, and Chicago State University teaching general chemistry, physical science, and engineering physics from 2017- 2018. She has recently obtained a Physics Postdoctoral Fellowship position at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she will be researching computational code for radiotherapy oncological imaging modeling applications for cancer diagnostic and treatment techniques. In addition, Dr. Jones completed Postdoctoral Research Staff position(s) in the Materials Science & Physics Division, Sensor Materials and Measurement group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 2016-2017; where her postdoctoral research involved working on synthetic procedures and processing methods to yield high-performance transparent ceramics for current scintillator application projects directly related to medical imaging where she received a US Patent. She completed her MS (2009) and PhD (2015) degrees in Physics from Hampton University in the Department of Physics at the Crystal Physics Laboratory, specializing in optical physics. Her dissertation research focused on solid-state eye safe laser material development, she has also worked on various multi-disciplinary research projects from bioengineering molecular ligation methods to characterization and evaluation of hybrid space-survivable nanocomposites. She also received two MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Biotechnology & Chemical Sciences from Tuskegee University and Roosevelt University in 2009 and 2003. She obtained her BS and BA in Chemistry and Psychology from Tuskegee University in 2001.

Jaylond Martin



Jay is a Senior Applications Engineer at Edmund Optics, where he helps create imaging solutions for customers developing machine vision systems. He received his BS in Physics from The College of New Jersey. Jay's introduction to optics came in the form of his senior capstone project, where he experimentally studied the effects of different masks applied to the Fourier plane in a 4-F Fourier system. With the use of spatial light modulators, he was able to create more exotic masks, apply them more precisely, and create optical vortices. The experience opened his eyes to an entire subset of physics and an industry that he had not previously explored. That summer, he began his career as a Product Support Engineer at Edmund Optics. It has been nine years since then, and this has given him a career filled with learning, new experiences, skill development, and significant personal growth.

Within the field of optics, Jay has become a subject matter expert in imaging optics and is an A3 Certified Vision Professional. As a senior member of the Advanced Application Engineering group, he spends much of his time as a consultant for machine vision clients in need of vision system design. He is also heavily involved in the product development process, serving as a bridge between the customer or sales force and the optical and optomechanical design teams.

Bienvenu Ndagano



Bienvenu Ndagano is a Congolese scientist born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. He moved to South Africa in 2009 to pursue his academic career. He earned his PhD in physics in 2018 from the University of the Witwatersrand, where he focused on the applications of structured light and structured photons to optical communications.

Following his doctorate, he joined the Xtreme Light Group at the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom in 2018. His research focus expanded to quantum sensing and imaging. Particularly, he worked on the design of a proof-of-principle quantum-enabled microscope using two-photon interferometry.

In 2021, Bienvenu left academia and joined the Fraunhofer Centre for Applied Photonics in Glasgow, where he worked as a researcher until 2023. At Fraunhofer, he worked with local enterprises to develop quantum technologies aimed at commercialization.

In June 2023, Bienvenu made a return to academia as an Associate Professor at the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) in Canada, where he also holds the Quebec MEIE Research Chair in Quantum Photonics. He leads the Applied Photonics laboratory that develops quantum toolboxes for sensing, communication,

and imaging using entangled and structured photons. Bienvenu chairs the Frontiers in Optics subcommittee on Quantum Electronics and serves as the Optica Quantum Optical Science and Technology group leader.

Elizabeth Nolan



Elizabeth Nolan is the CEO for Optica. In this role, she is responsible for supporting 150+ staff, annual turnover of \$50M US, and a customer base of more than 570,000 individuals and companies from 184 countries. Prior to taking on this role, she was the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Publishing Officer for the Society where she oversaw all facets of Optica's strategic planning, branding, program development/market research, as well as its publishing program. As part of these responsibilities, she co-led the Society's name change from OSA to Optica, championed the development and implementation of the organization's first and ongoing Society-wide strategic planning process, and spearheaded the launch of the publishing division's bespoke publishing and peer review platforms and 8 new journals to better meet the needs of the optics and photonics community.

Before joining Optica, Elizabeth was Senior Vice President, Global Sales, Marketing and Strategy at SPi Global. While at SPi, she directed the efforts of a number of different teams and developed a host of new and innovative services for Scientific, Medical and Technical publishers. Prior to that, she held senior level positions at Thompson Publishing Group and The Worldwatch Institute and spent her early years working in the publishing industry at Wolters Kluwer (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins at the time). With 30 years of experience working with not-for-profit organizations, commercial publishers and an Asia-based business process outsourcing provider, Elizabeth has forged a career that is rich in executive management, global expansion, new product/service development, as well as journal publishing.

Amplify Optics Immersion Program Attendees



Dan Ahimbisibwe
New York University
USA



Emmanuel Amoako
Northeastern University
USA



Deborah Amos Adigun
University of Eastern Finland
Finland



Ebenezer Armah
Norfolk State University
USA



Nytica Artiaga
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
USA



Jabari Austin
Johns Hopkins University
USA



Elijah Avery
University of San Diego
USA



Leiyla Brent
Loyola University Maryland
USA



Tasha Cummins
Stony Brook University
USA



Dominic Davis
Morgan State University
USA



Astrid Dzutcha
Morgan State University
USA



Joshua Ehizibolo
University of Maryland, College Park
USA



Emeka Eze
Lincoln University College
Malaysia



Sayori Gordon
Jackson State University
USA



Daniel Harrison
Morgan State University
USA



Etebong Ibekwe
University Jean Monet
France



Preston Jackson
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
USA



Wilhelmina Jones
Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology
Ghana



Curtis Jordan
Norfolk State University
USA



Fatima Kamara
Purdue University
USA



Bakpen Kombat
University of Eastern Finland
Finland



Sarah Loewecke
Fordham University
USA



Victoria Mends
New York University
USA



Christopher Metellus
University of Central Florida
USA



Daniel Mina Palacios
Escuela Politécnica Nacional
Ecuador



Fadhimah Mohamed
Washington University in St. Louis
USA



Pashlene Naidoo
Stellenbosch University
South Africa



Sidy Ndongue
University of Toronto
Canada



David Chinedu Okeudo
Okeudo Vrije Universiteit Brussels
Belgium



Olabisi Olayinka
Northern Illinois University
USA



Favour Oni
Achievers University
Nigeria



Robert Owusu
Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology
Ghana



Devonte Parker
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
USA



Ephraim Rodgers
Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology
Ghana



Denise Delali Sabrah
University of Energy and Natural
Resources
Ghana



Chevel Samuels
Norfolk State University
USA



Cenia Sims
University of Maryland, Baltimore
County
USA



Eronice Souza
Federal University of Health
Sciences of Porto Alegre
Brazil



Jebril Thaxton
University of Michigan
USA



Ebubechukwu (Camilus) Ugada
University of St Andrews
UK



Kyra Watts
Brown University
USA

2025 Amplify Optics Immersion Program Participants

First	Last	University	Country	Academic Level	Gender
Dan	Ahimbisibwe	New York University	USA	Master's	Man
Emmanuel	Amoako	Northeastern University	USA	Master's	Man
Deborah	Amos Adigun	University of Eastern Finland	Finland	Master's	Woman
Ebenezer	Armah	Norfolk State University	USA	Master's	Man
Nytica	Artiaga	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Jabari	Austin	Johns Hopkins University	USA	Masters	Man
Elijah	Avery	University of San Diego	USA	Bachelors	Man
Leiyla	Brent	Loyola University Maryland	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Tasha	Cummins	Stony Brook University	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Dominic	Davis	Morgan State University	USA	Bachelors	Man
Astrid	Dzotcha	Morgan State University	USA	Master's	Man
Joshua	Ehizibolo	University of Maryland, College Park	USA	Bachelors	Man
Emeka	Eze	Lincoln University College	Malaysia	Master's	Man
Sayori	Gordon	Jackson State University	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Daniel	Harrison	Morgan State University	USA	Master's	Man
Etebong	Ibekwe	University Jean Monet	France	Master's	Man
Preston	Jackson	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	USA	Bachelors	Man
Wilhelmina	Jones	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana	Bachelors	Woman
Curtis	Jordan	Norfolk State University	USA	Bachelors	Man
Fatima	Kamara	Purdue University	USA	Master's	Woman
Bakpen	Kombat	University of Eastern Finland	Finland	Bachelors	Man
Sarah	Loewecke	Fordham Univeristy	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Victoria	Mends	New York University	USA	Master's	Woman
Christopher	Metellus	University of Central Florida	USA	Master's	Man
Daniel	Mina Palacios	Escuela Politécnica Nacional	Ecuador	Bachelors	Man
Fadhimah	Mohamed	Washington University in St.Louis	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Pashlene	Naidoo	Stellenbosch University	South Africa	Master's	Woman
Sidy	Ndiongue	University of Toronto	Canada	Master's	Man
David Chinedu	Okeudo	Vrije Universiteit Brussels	Belgium	Master's	Man
Olabisi	Olayinka	Northern Illinois University	USA	Master's	Man
Favour	Oni	Achievers University	Nigeria	Bachelors	Man
Robert	Owusu	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana	Bachelors	Man
Devonte	Parker	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	USA	Bachelors	Man
Ephraim	Rodgers	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana	Bachelors	Man
Denise Delali	Sabrah	University of Energy and Natural Resources	Ghana	Bachelors	Woman
Chevel	Samuels	Norfolk State University	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Cenia	Sims	University of Maryland, Baltimore County	USA	Bachelors	Woman
Eronice	Souza	Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre	Brazil	Bachelors	Woman
Jebriel	Thaxton	University of Michigan	USA	Bachelors	Man
Ebubechukwu (Camilus)	Ugada	University of St Andrews	UK	Bachelors	Man
Kyra	Watts	Brown University	USA	Master's	Woman

*Amplify Scholarship Recipients in bold

AMPLIFY SCHOLARSHIP FOR BLACK SCIENTISTS

Meet the 2025 Amplify Scholars.

The Optica Foundation awards scholarships to 10 Black undergraduate or master's students. Each scholar receives US\$10,000, access to a global network of mentors, and an invitation to the Amplify Optics Immersion Program.



**Deborah Amos
Adigun**

*Université Jean
Monnet, Saint-
Etienne, France*



Elijah Avery

*University of
San Diego, USA*



**Sarah
Elizabeth
Loewecke**

*Fordham University,
USA*



**Mirabel
Mensah**

*Queen's University,
Canada*



**Christopher
Metellus**

*University of Central
Florida, USA*



**Fadhimah
Mohamed**

*Washington
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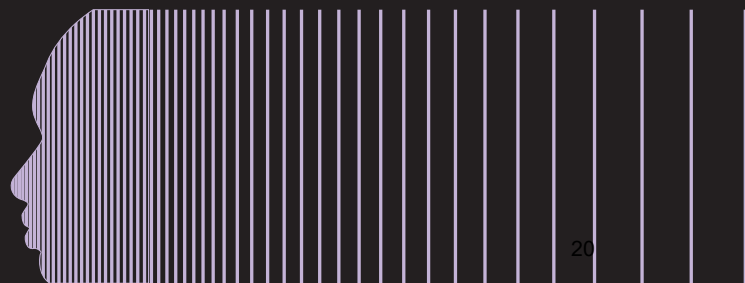
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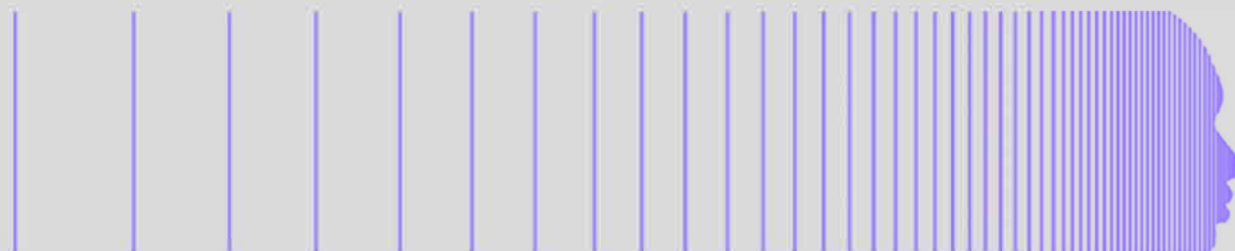


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