

Almaz Negash Bio

Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network

Executive in Residence, School of Global Innovation & Leadership, Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, SJSU (2018-19)

Member of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, High Level Panel on Migration

Almaz Negash is a sought after leader for dynamic global engagement and community economic development. With a passion for social innovation and impact, she is a master at turning ideas into action by bringing diverse groups of people together to tackle complex and challenging global issues.

Whether creating market driven solutions to reduce homelessness and mental health with Pay for Success - a more than \$25 million project in Santa Clara County, supporting women to gain financial security through microenterprise development, international trade, or engaging former heads of states on Global Leadership & Ethics, she's an inspiring social change agent.

In 2010, Almaz founded the African Diaspora Network (ADN) to inform and engage Africans in the diaspora and facilitate direct collaboration with social entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders to invest and improve the lives of everyone on the continent. Under her leadership and vision, ADN is now the home of *The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)*, an annual conference in Silicon Valley.

As a frequent speaker on regional and global development, Almaz has authored several articles including "Empowerment of Women & African Diaspora in Ensuring Renaissance of the Continent." She speaks and writes on many subjects, including Social Innovation and Impact, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Partnership Development, Diversity and Inclusion, and Social Responsibility. She serves on many organizational and advisory boards and is co-founder of Grassroots Forward Fund, and the Global Women's Leadership Network at the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University. She holds an MBA from Golden Gate University and a BA from University of San Francisco, and Certificate in Design Thinking on System Transformation Masterclass, Stanford Change Labs.