



JEWEL N. THOMPSON

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BUILDER. OPTIMIST. DOER



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: **BUILDER**

Ms. Jewel Nana Thompson is a social impact strategist, public speaker, and business analyst with a focus on business development. She's an Assistant Lecturer of Entrepreneurship and researcher at Ashesi University. She teaches Foundations of Design and Entrepreneurship (FDE), Social Enterprise course and Organizational Behavior courses. She is the Incubator Manager and Operations Lead for the Ashesi Venture Incubator of the NEXT (New Entrepreneurs Xchange for Transformation) Idea to Impact Project a collaboration between Ashesi and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) D-Lab.

She also led the innovation lab at the Design and Technology Institute in Accra, helping to facilitate the design of the curriculum and taught the inaugural cohort of students how to solve business challenges with the use of the design thinking methodology. Prior to joining Ashesi and DTI she was the Small Business Program Manager/Financial Wellbeing Coach for Operation HOPE. In her position she not only provided consultations for aspiring small business owners and existing small business owners within these communities but facilitated an entrepreneur training program that successfully incubated, educated, and graduated over 100 businesses. In addition to this role, she was the on-site credit and money management counselor with Operation HOPE's partnership with BB&T Bank (now Truist Bank). Her training sessions were pivotal in teaching participants how to scale their businesses and seek funding to which aided in helping entrepreneurs secure over 200K in funding.

OPTIMIST

She is the co-founder of a tech platform called LITH, Africa (leveraging intuitive technology for health) which integrates CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) and machine learning to support the mental well-being of African college students, the platform is currently in beta testing. She is the founder of Eco-Launch, a Ghanaian based business advisory firm that supports early growth African social impact startups that seek to expand their offerings globally through business training, strategy development, and access to financial tools.

With a hunger to learn more about the various intricacies of businesses with a social focus. Ms. Thompson has over ten years of combined experience researching, consulting, and helping to build businesses by teaching the theories of business management, orienting students/participants with the inclusion of the design thinking methodology to spark innovative business solutions and include the application of data analysis to understand the historical insights of business development. She has been invited to speak on her work and facilitate trainings and workshops within the United States, Europe and Ghana.

Additionally, Ms. Thompson developed and co-chaired the Young African Leaders Conference in 2010, from this she continued to create programming geared towards the empowerment of young African millennials in the city of Atlanta prior to moving to Ghana in 2018. She is the former Curator and former membership chair for the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Atlanta Hub. She was invited to speak on value driven private and public partnerships at the ACM convening at the World Economic Forum headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



TESTIMONIALS



Jewel is, without doubt, a leader with substance, energy, and a deep commitment to supporting both entrepreneurs and our startup ecosystem in Ghana. Her humility, approachability and flair makes her a unique and important player in making Ghana an exciting place to build a business. She inspires, she leads, and she empowers. A thought leader, she is passionately dedicated to raising entrepreneurs up and adding value to our ecosystem as a whole. It's a privilege to work with, and learn from her. Quite simply, I love working with her.

Simon Turner
Director, Founder's Institute Accra



Jewel Thompson was instrumental in building our social impact organization. Her ingenuity, passion, and commitment to helping transform the justice system in America by training, mentoring and supporting public defenders working in under resourced communities was invaluable. Jewel is a natural leader that directs with sincerity and ensures that anyone working on her team is comfortable bringing their authentic selves to work. She is a thought leader that never waivers in her commitment to service.

Ilham N. Askia
Executive Director, Gideon's Promise



Jewel has been such an integral part of the success of the USAID-funded NEXTi2i and AVI programs; far beyond what was originally envisioned. On visiting Ashesi University and the first AVI workshop gathering on behalf of USAID, it was inspiring to see her dedication and passion for the program. It's sometimes easy to forget how much hard work has gone into the continued growth of these programs because Jewel has been working her magic behind the scenes to make it look so effortless.

Brent Wells, PHD
Program and Policy Advisor, USAID



Jewel is an excellent public speaker and an incredible ambassador for the various social impact projects with which she is involved. She presents her work in a manner that is informative, impactful, and engaging. It's a pleasure to work with her and learn from her.

Camille Smith
Grants and Operations Coordinator, Ashesi Foundation



DOER

She has been awarded with the YNPN and Georgia Center for Non-Profits 30 Under 30 Award, the Power 30 Under 30 Atlanta for her work in community service, Apinke Magazine Young Community Leader Award, the Miss Africa Humanitarian Award and is the former Miss Ghana Georgia. She is a 2021 West Africa Acumen Fellow and a Fast Company 2021 World Changing Ideas Honoree. She is an avid lover of the arts and its intersection with technology and is committed to developing leadership programs for emerging youth.

Ms. Thompson is a graduate of Oglethorpe University with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and received a dual Global MBA from Georgia State University J. Mack Robinson School of Business and the Sorbonne IAE Paris School of Business in Paris, France. She received a business management certificate from the University of Rio De Janeiro, Coppead Business School. She is presently pursuing her PHD at the University of Ghana.



Jewel N. Thompson is available for:

1. Speaking Engagements

Topics of Interest: Women in Entrepreneurship, Social Impact, Business in Africa, Diversity and Inclusion

2. Business Coaching For Early To Mid Growth Ventures

3. Workshop Facilitation

Design Thinking, Company Building, Growth, Measuring Social Impact, Entrepreneurship Curriculum Design

4. Social Impact Strategy Development: Corporations

5. Partnerships And Collaborations



Connect With Me

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