

Academic and Professional Chair Platform

Hi everyone, I'm Emmanuela Ilok, and I'm running to be your next Academic and Professional Chair!

Whether I'm asking Victory for school advice or Careen for career tips, I've always been passionate about finding opportunities - and helping others find them too. This year, many of us, especially freshmen and international students, have struggled to navigate the complex American academic and professional landscape. I want to make that path clearer, simpler, and more accessible for all ASA members, especially the incoming prefrosh.

I believe I can bring real value to ASA in this role.

Before MIT, I founded **CodED**, a nonprofit that trained students 300+ students in Nigerian public schools in technical skills and connected them to career opportunities. I also organized **CodeFest** for 600+ high school students, sensitizing them about the realities of technical careers.

If elected, I will work to bring **specific, innovative programs** to ASA, including:

- Professional Development Tailored for International Students:**

Workshops on navigating work authorization (CPT, OPT), resume-building for U.S. companies, and how to find international-friendly employers.

- Freshman and Prefrosh Career Pathways:**

A guided “first-year roadmap” with internship search timelines, resume and LinkedIn building sessions, and mock technical interviews - starting early.

- Africans in Industry and Research Speaker Series:**

Talks and panels featuring African alumni and upperclassmen who've navigated internships, research opportunities, and full-time careers in the U.S. - providing relatable, actionable advice.

- Mentorship Network Expansion:**

A match program pairing freshmen with older students and alumni based on career interests like tech, finance, medicine, research, and entrepreneurship.

- Opportunity Alerts:**

A monthly ASA “Opportunity Digest” with internship postings, scholarships, competitions, and academic programs curated for Africans and international students.

I want to build a professional scene where everyone - regardless of background - feels informed, prepared, and supported.