EY ENTREPRENEURS ACCESS NETWORK

2026 CLASS REPORT

Meet the 22 Entrepreneurs Shaping Tomorrow

Key findings, industry analysis, and cohort insights from the EY EAN 2026 class

📅 February 19, 2026   🌐 ean-directory.ey.com   📊 22 Cohort Members

Executive Summary

The EY Entrepreneurs Access Network 2026 class comprises 22 diverse entrepreneurs spanning technology, healthcare, consumer products, construction, professional services, and beyond. The cohort is geographically distributed across 14 states with notable concentrations in California, Georgia, Michigan, and New York. The class features founders and C-suite executives leading companies in AI, sustainable consumer brands, healthcare technology, data analytics, and IT services — reflecting both the diversity of American entrepreneurship and the sectors poised for growth in 2026.

22	**20**	**14**	**10+**
ENTREPRENEURS	COMPANIES	STATES	INDUSTRIES

Key Takeaways

1 **Tech-forward cohort:** ~32% of companies operate in technology, AI, or SaaS — the largest sector represented, reflecting the continued digital transformation of the economy.

2 **California leads:** 6 members (27%) are based in California, followed by Georgia (3), Michigan (3), and New York (3). Innovation hubs dominate.

3 **Leadership teams, not just solo founders:** Two companies — Nexusmind Technologies and NextMod Inc. — each have two leaders in the class, signaling EY's value on team dynamics.

4 **82% are CEO/Founder/President:** This is a class of top decision-makers with direct control over company direction and growth.

5 **Strong diversity:** The cohort reflects meaningful representation across race, gender, and ethnicity — consistent with EAN's mission to support underrepresented entrepreneurs.
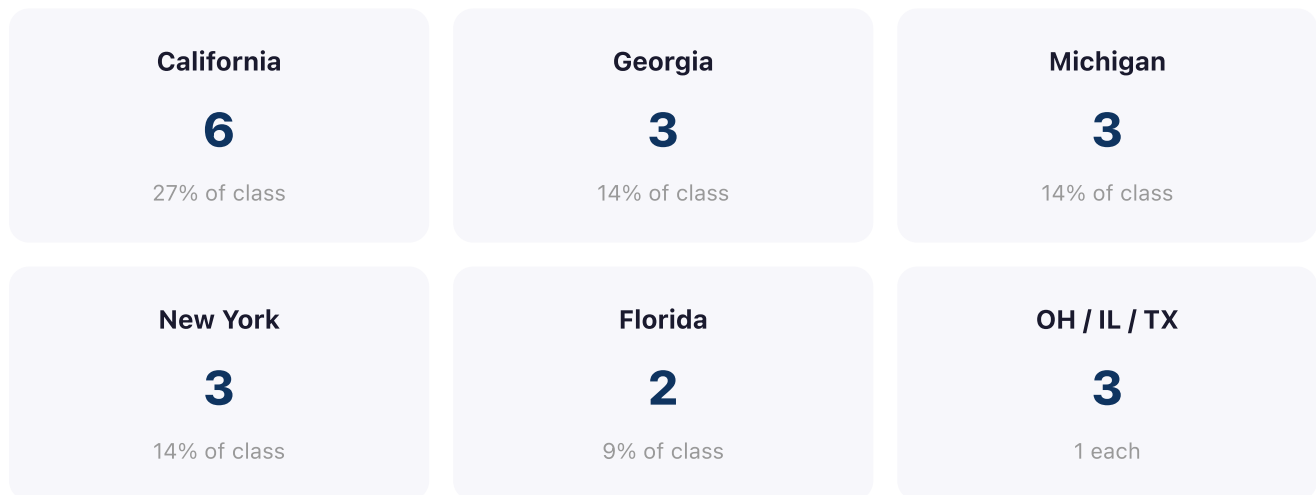
2026 Class Directory

#	NAME	TITLE	COMPANY	LOCATION
1	Alfred Okosun	Founder	Ausome Bee Inc.	Modesto, CA
2	Angel Marquez	President	Custom Design Innovations, LLC	Jamaica, NY
3	Candace Mitchell	Founder and CEO	Techturized, Inc. dba MYAVANA	Atlanta, GA
4	Cathy Huyghe	CEO	Enolytics, LLC	Atlanta, GA
5	Crystal Foote	Founder & CEO	Digital Culture Group, LLC	Norcross, GA
6	Fenton Jagarnauth	President/Owner	Fenton Jagan, LLC	Nassau County, NY
7	Hamilton Perkins	CEO	Hamilton Perkins Collection	Los Angeles, CA
8	Jeanna Hondel	President and CEO	Ascension Construction Solutions	Columbus, OH
9	Jorge Best	COO	Nexusmind Technologies, LLC	Detroit, MI
10	Juan Felipe Echeverry	CEO	Blumelii & Petalii	Miami, FL
11	Karim Jernite	CEO	Advancio Group	Stevenson Ranch, CA
12	Laura Epstein	Founder and CEO	Pulse Charter Connect	Chicago, IL
13	Lian Alana Mack, MD	Medical Director/Owner	Mack Dermatology, PC dba GlamDerm	New York, NY
14	Luis Gonzalez	Chief Executive Officer	DirectedLINK, LLC	Los Angeles, CA
15	Markeith Weldon	Chairman and CEO	Nexusmind Technologies, LLC	Detroit, MI
16	Melina Corona	CEO and Co-Founder	NextMod, Inc.	Riverside, CA
17	Rahul Kuruvilla	President	Triune Infomatics Inc.	Pleasanton, CA
18	Sean Khan	Founder and EVP	NextMod, Inc.	Riverside, CA

#	NAME	TITLE	COMPANY	LOCATION
19	**Shabana Siraj**	CEO	Trident Consulting	San Ramon, CA
20	**Stephen Davis**	CEO	TAKE OFF Luggage	Lathrup Village, MI
21	**Vincent Lott**	CEO	BeVera Solutions, LLC	Riverdale, GA
22	**Wayne Little**	CEO	WEEZ Solutions LLC dba Metnology	Brandon, FL

#	NAME	TITLE	COMPANY	LOCATION
19	**Shabana Siraj**	CEO	Trident Consulting	San Ramon, CA
20	**Stephen Davis**	CEO	TAKE OFF Luggage	Lathrup Village, MI

Industry Breakdown

● Technology / AI / SaaS **7**	● Consumer Products / Retail **4**
● Professional Services **3**	● Health Sciences / Wellness **2**
● Construction **1**	● Data Analytics **1**
● Aviation / Charter **1**	● Food / Agriculture **1**
● Government / IT Solutions **1**	● Manufacturing / Industrial **1**

Geographic Distribution

California	Georgia	Michigan
6	**3**	**3**
27% of class	14% of class	14% of class

New York	Florida	OH / IL / TX
3	**2**	**3**
14% of class	9% of class	1 each

Regional Insights

The class shows a strong pull toward established innovation corridors — California's tech ecosystem, Atlanta's emerging startup scene, and Detroit's industrial renaissance. The Inland Empire (Riverside, CA) has two representatives, suggesting growth in non-traditional tech hubs within California.

Company Spotlights

Nexusmind Technologies
📍 Detroit, MI

Markeith Weldon — Chairman & CEO
Jorge Best — COO

Technology company with both C-suite leaders in the 2026 class. Detroit-based, representing the city's tech renaissance.

NextMod, Inc.
📍 Riverside, CA

Melina Corona — CEO & Co-Founder
Sean Khan — Founder & EVP

Co-founded tech company based in Southern California's Inland Empire. Both founders selected for the 2026 cohort.

MYAVANA (Techturized, Inc.)
📍 Atlanta, GA

Candace Mitchell — Founder & CEO

AI-powered hair care technology platform using computer vision and machine learning for personalized hair analysis.

Hamilton Perkins Collection
📍 Los Angeles, CA

Hamilton Perkins — CEO

Sustainable bag and accessory brand crafted from recycled materials. Direct-to-consumer model with strong social mission.

GlamDerm (Mack Dermatology)
📍 New York, NY

Dr. Lian Alana Mack, MD — Medical Director/Owner

Consumer-facing dermatology practice bridging medical expertise with beauty and wellness branding.

Enolytics, LLC
📍 Atlanta, GA

Cathy Huyghe — CEO

Data analytics platform serving the wine and beverage industry with actionable consumer insights.

Advancio Group
📍 Stevenson Ranch, CA

Karim Jernite — CEO

Technology and software development company delivering custom solutions and nearshore engineering talent.

TAKE OFF Luggage
📍 Lathrup Village, MI

Stephen Davis — CEO

Direct-to-consumer luggage brand focused on stylish, affordable travel gear for modern travelers.

Trident Consulting

📍 San Ramon, CA

Shabana Siraj — CEO

IT staffing and consulting firm providing technology talent solutions to enterprise clients.

Pulse Charter Connect

📍 Chicago, IL

Laura Epstein — Founder & CEO

Aviation and charter booking platform connecting travelers with private charter services.

Cohort Insights

Leadership Profile

82% of the 2026 class holds CEO, Founder, or President titles — this is a cohort of decision-makers with direct authority over company strategy and growth. The presence of two co-founder pairs (Nexusmind and NextMod) suggests EY recognizes that strong leadership teams, not just individual visionaries, drive scalable businesses.

Sector Trends

Technology dominates at 32%, but the class shows meaningful breadth — from Dr. Mack's dermatology practice to Hamilton Perkins' sustainable fashion brand to Jeanna Hondel's construction firm. This diversity reflects the EAN program's intentional reach across the full spectrum of American enterprise.

Diversity & Inclusion

The 2026 cohort demonstrates strong representation across race, gender, and ethnicity — consistent with EY's EAN mission to accelerate the growth of underrepresented entrepreneurs. The class includes Black, Hispanic/Latino, South Asian, Middle Eastern, and female founders building across every major industry vertical.

What to Watch

Several companies in this cohort sit at compelling intersections: MYAVANA applies AI to beauty, Enolytics brings data science to wine, and Digital Culture Group bridges technology with cultural marketing. These cross-sector innovators may represent the highest-growth potential in the class.

Report generated from EY EAN Directory (ean-directory.ey.com) · February 19, 2026

Company descriptions sourced from their respective websites. This report is for informational purposes only.

The AI Imperative

We are in the most significant technological shift since the internet. AI agents — autonomous systems that can reason, plan, and execute multi-step tasks — are moving from research labs into production. For the 22 entrepreneurs in the EAN 2026 class, this is not a distant future consideration. It is happening now. The companies that deploy AI agent teams in 2026 will compound advantages that become insurmountable by 2028. Those that wait will find themselves competing against businesses that operate at 10x their velocity with a fraction of the headcount.

The 2026 AI Landscape

Agents are the new workforce: AI agents can now handle research, customer support, content creation, data analysis, code generation, scheduling, and sales outreach autonomously. They work 24/7, cost pennies per task, and improve continuously.

Multi-agent teams are production-ready: Frameworks like CrewAI, AutoGen, and OpenClaw allow businesses to deploy teams of specialized AI agents that collaborate — a "researcher" gathers intel, an "analyst" synthesizes findings, a "writer" produces deliverables, and a "reviewer" quality-checks output.

Cost of intelligence is collapsing: What cost $50,000 in consultant hours in 2024 can now be accomplished by an agent team in hours for under $50. This democratizes capabilities previously reserved for large enterprises.

Vertical AI is the opportunity: Generic chatbots are table stakes. The real value is in domain-specific agent teams trained on industry data — wine analytics agents, construction bid agents, dermatology triage agents, IT staffing matching agents.

Three Tiers of AI Adoption

TIER	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	TIMELINE
Tier 1: Automate	Replace repetitive tasks with AI (email, scheduling, data entry, reporting)	20-40% cost reduction in operations	Immediate
Tier 2: Augment	AI agent teams that work alongside humans (research, analysis, customer engagement)	3-5x team output without new hires	Q1-Q2 2026
Tier 3: Transform	AI-native business models (AI-powered products, autonomous service delivery)	New revenue streams, market repositioning	Q3 2026+

AI Impact by Sector

🖥 Technology / AI / SaaS (7 companies)

Nexusmind Technologies, NextMod, Advancio Group, DirectedLINK, Triune Infomatics, Trident Consulting, Digital Culture Group

> **Impact: EXISTENTIAL.** These companies are closest to the AI frontier and face the most disruption — and the most opportunity. IT staffing firms (Trident, Triune) will see demand shift from placing bodies to placing AI-augmented teams. Software dev shops (Advancio, DirectedLINK) must adopt AI-assisted coding or lose on speed and price. The winners will be those who productize AI capabilities rather than just use them internally.

Agent Team Playbook:

1 **AI-augmented delivery teams:** Deploy coding agents (Cursor, Devin, Claude Code) alongside human engineers. A 5-person dev team with AI agents delivers like a 20-person team. Advancio and DirectedLINK should restructure pricing around outcomes, not billable hours.

2 **Talent matching agents:** Trident and Triune should build AI agents that autonomously source, screen, and match IT candidates — reducing placement time from weeks to hours. First-mover advantage is massive in staffing.

3 **Client-facing AI products:** Nexusmind and NextMod should embed AI agent capabilities into their products — offering customers autonomous monitoring, reporting, and optimization as premium features.

🛍 Consumer Products / Retail (4 companies)

Hamilton Perkins Collection, Custom Design Innovations, Blumelii & Petalii, TAKE OFF Luggage

> **Impact: HIGH.** AI is reshaping every layer of consumer brands — from product design to marketing to supply chain. DTC brands that deploy AI for personalization, content, and operations will dramatically outperform peers still running traditional playbooks.

1 **Content factory agents:** Deploy a team of AI agents that produce product photography, social media content, ad copy, email campaigns, and influencer outreach at scale. Hamilton Perkins and TAKE OFF should run AI content teams generating 10x the output of a human marketing team.

2 **Customer experience agents:** AI agents handling pre-sale questions, post-purchase support, returns, and upselling — 24/7 in multiple languages. Reduces support costs 80% while increasing satisfaction.

3 **Supply chain intelligence:** Agents that monitor supplier pricing, logistics delays, and demand signals — auto-adjusting orders and flagging risks before they become problems.

🏥 Health Sciences / Wellness (2 companies)

GlamDerm (Mack Dermatology), MYAVANA (Techturized)

> **Impact: TRANSFORMATIVE.** Healthcare is being fundamentally reshaped by AI — from diagnostics to patient communication to research. MYAVANA is already AI-native. GlamDerm has enormous opportunity to differentiate through AI-powered patient experiences.

1 **MYAVANA — double down:** Candace Mitchell's AI hair analysis platform should expand agent capabilities — AI agents that create personalized product recommendations, auto-generate content from user data, and build loyalty through ongoing AI-powered hair coaching.

2 **GlamDerm — AI triage + patient agents:** Deploy agents for appointment scheduling, pre-visit skin assessments via photo analysis, post-treatment follow-up, and personalized skincare protocols. Patients get concierge-level care; Dr. Mack's team focuses on high-value procedures.

AI Impact by Sector (continued)

🏗 Construction (1 company)

Ascension Construction Solutions — Jeanna Hondel

> **Impact: HIGH.** Construction is one of the least digitized industries — which means AI adoption creates outsized competitive advantage. Bid estimation, project management, compliance, and safety monitoring are all ripe for agent automation.

1 **Bid estimation agents:** AI agents that analyze RFPs, pull historical cost data, estimate materials and labor, and draft competitive bids in hours instead of days. This alone could 5x Ascension's bid volume.

2 **Compliance + safety agents:** Agents that monitor OSHA requirements, track certifications, flag safety issues from job site photos, and auto-generate compliance reports.

3 **Project coordination agents:** Multi-agent teams managing subcontractor scheduling, material ordering, weather-delay adjustments, and client communication autonomously.

📊 Data Analytics (1 company)

Enolytics — Cathy Huyghe

> **Impact: EXISTENTIAL (positive).** AI supercharges analytics companies. Enolytics should evolve from a dashboard/reporting tool into an autonomous insights engine — AI agents that proactively surface opportunities, predict trends, and recommend actions for wine industry clients.

1 **Autonomous analyst agents:** Instead of clients reading dashboards, deploy AI agents that monitor wine market data 24/7, detect anomalies, and send proactive alerts: "Pinot Noir demand in the Southeast is up 15% — here are 3 actions to capitalize."

2 **Natural language querying:** Let winery owners ask questions in plain English and get instant, contextualized answers from an AI agent that knows their data history.

✈️ Aviation / Charter (1 company)

Pulse Charter Connect — Laura Epstein

> **Impact: HIGH.** Charter booking is complex, relationship-driven, and ripe for AI automation. Agent teams can handle the entire booking lifecycle.

1   **Booking concierge agents:** AI agents that handle inbound inquiries, match aircraft to trip requirements, negotiate pricing with operators, and manage the full booking flow — turning a high-touch manual process into a scalable operation.

2   **Fleet optimization agents:** Agents that analyze empty leg availability, repositioning flights, and demand patterns to surface deals and maximize utilization for operator partners.

🍯 Food / Agriculture & 🏛️ Government IT & ⚙️ Manufacturing

Ausome Bee (Alfred Okosun), BeVera Solutions (Vincent Lott), Metnology/WEEZ Solutions (Wayne Little), Fenton Jagan (Fenton Jagarnauth)

> **Impact: MODERATE to HIGH.** These sectors benefit most from operational AI — agents handling procurement, logistics, government compliance (BeVera), quality control, and customer management. The key play is using AI to punch above your weight: operate with the efficiency of a company 10x your size.

The Agent Team Blueprint

Every company in the 2026 class should deploy a minimum viable agent team. Here is the recommended starting configuration — applicable regardless of industry:

🏢 The Core Agent Team (Deploy Immediately)

AGENT ROLE	WHAT IT DOES	TOOLS / STACK	IMPACT
🧠 Research Agent	Monitors competitors, market trends, regulatory changes, and customer sentiment. Delivers daily briefings.	Web search APIs, news feeds, social listening	Replaces $5K/mo in analyst time
✍️ Content Agent	Generates blog posts, social media, email campaigns, product descriptions, and ad copy on schedule.	Claude/GPT, brand guidelines, CMS integration	10x content output, $3-8K/mo savings
📞 Customer Agent	Handles inbound support, FAQ, appointment booking, order tracking, and escalation to humans for complex issues.	Chat widget, email, SMS, CRM integration	80% reduction in support costs
📊 Analytics Agent	Monitors KPIs, detects anomalies, generates weekly reports, and surfaces actionable insights proactively.	Database access, BI tools, Slack/email alerts	Real-time visibility without manual reporting
🤝 Sales Agent	Qualifies inbound leads, sends personalized outreach, follows up on proposals, and updates CRM automatically.	CRM, email, LinkedIn, proposal templates	3x pipeline with same headcount
⚙️ Ops Agent	Manages scheduling, invoicing, vendor communication, compliance tracking, and internal workflows.	Calendar, accounting, project management tools	Eliminates 15-20 hrs/week of admin

📐 Implementation Roadmap

W1 **Week 1 — Customer + Content agents:** Highest immediate ROI. Stand up a customer support agent on your website/email and a content agent producing 2-3 posts per week. Use Claude, GPT-4, or open-source models via API.

W2 **Week 2-3 — Research + Analytics agents:** Connect to your data sources. Deploy a research agent that delivers a daily competitive briefing to Slack. Set up an analytics agent monitoring your top 5 KPIs.

W4 **Week 4+ — Sales + Ops agents:** Integrate with your CRM and project management tools. Start with lead qualification and follow-up automation. Add ops automation for scheduling and invoicing.

💡 The Math

A full 6-agent team costs approximately **$200-500/month** in API costs. The equivalent human team — a researcher, content marketer, customer support rep, analyst, SDR, and operations coordinator — costs **$35,000-50,000/month** in a major metro. That's a **99% cost reduction** for 70-80% of the output. The remaining 20% is where your human team adds irreplaceable judgment, creativity, and relationship depth.

Company-Specific AI Recommendations

MYAVANA

Priority: AI hair coaching agents that maintain ongoing relationships with customers. Expand from analysis to autonomous product recommendations and subscription management. Build a "hair health agent" that checks in with users monthly.

Nexusmind Technologies

Priority: Embed AI agent capabilities into client deliverables. Offer "AI-augmented managed services" where agent teams handle Tier 1 monitoring and incident response. Charge for outcomes, not hours.

Hamilton Perkins Collection

Priority: AI content factory producing daily social content, influencer outreach, and email campaigns. Deploy a customer agent handling sizing questions, order tracking, and sustainable sourcing storytelling.

GlamDerm

Priority: AI patient concierge — photo-based skin assessments, appointment scheduling, post-procedure care follow-up. AI agents can pre-screen patients, reducing no-shows and increasing procedure conversion rates.

Enolytics

Priority: Transform from dashboards to autonomous insights. AI agents that call out opportunities and risks in plain English. "Your Chardonnay is underpriced by 12% relative to regional comps" — delivered proactively, not discovered by a human digging through data.

Trident Consulting

Priority: AI talent matching agents that scan resumes, score candidates, and auto-schedule interviews. Reduce time-to-fill from 3 weeks to 3 days. Offer clients "AI-augmented consultants" — human experts paired with AI agents.

Ascension Construction

Priority: AI bid estimation agents. Feed historical project data and let agents draft competitive bids in hours. Add compliance monitoring agents for OSHA, permitting, and subcontractor cert tracking.

Pulse Charter Connect

Priority: AI booking concierge handling the full inquiry-to-booking lifecycle. Agents that match aircraft, negotiate with operators, and manage client communication. Scale from concierge service to platform.

TAKE OFF Luggage

Priority: AI-powered DTC marketing — automated A/B testing of ad creative, dynamic pricing agents, and a customer support agent handling returns/exchanges. Use AI to compete with brands 50x your size.

Advancio Group

Priority: AI pair-programming is mandatory. Every developer should work with AI coding agents. Restructure client engagements around speed and outcomes. A 10-person AI-augmented team delivers like 40.

The Bottom Line

> Every company in the EAN 2026 class has a 12-month window to establish an AI advantage. The entrepreneurs who deploy agent teams now will build compounding operational advantages — faster execution, lower costs, better customer experiences, and data flywheels that accelerate over time. Those who treat AI as "something to look into later" will find themselves competing against AI-native competitors by 2028.

Three Things to Do This Week

1 **Deploy a customer support agent.** Use any major AI platform. Train it on your FAQ, product docs, and common inquiries. Put it on your website. This takes 2-4 hours and saves 20+ hours/week immediately.

2 **Start an AI content pipeline.** Set up a content agent that produces 3 pieces of content per week — blog posts, social media, email drafts. Human reviews and approves. You now have a content machine that never calls in sick.

3 **Audit your workflows for agent opportunities.** List every repetitive task your team does weekly. Score each by time spent and complexity. Start automating the highest-time, lowest-complexity tasks with AI agents. You'll find 30-40% of work is automatable today.

The Competitive Equation

In 2026, the gap between AI-adopting and non-adopting small businesses will be:

10x	**3x**	**80%**	**99%**
CONTENT OUTPUT	SALES PIPELINE	LOWER SUPPORT COSTS	CHEAPER INTELLIGENCE

> The question isn't whether AI will impact these businesses.
> It's whether these entrepreneurs will be the ones wielding it — or competing against it.

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AI impact analysis and agent team recommendations prepared for the EAN 2026 cohort.

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