



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Community-Based Education Forum Showcases Youth-Led Research and Celebrates Vision for Global CBE Centers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — On November 5, 2025, the Community-Based Education (CBE) Movement™ hosted the first Community-Based Education Forum. Held during Africa Celebrates 2025, the event brought together students, educators, civil society partners, and global leaders to highlight the transformative power of youth-led research and community-centered learning. Led by Dr. Ife Akinsheye Damon, the Forum demonstrated how Community-Based Education empowers young people to investigate real issues, engage with stakeholders, and design solutions that strengthen their communities.

The event opened with a dynamic Research Expo, where students presented projects addressing urgent community challenges, including:

- Reducing Microplastic Pollution
- Strengthening Support for Student Life
- Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools
- Transforming Global Media Culture for Educational Impact
- Reducing Students' Substance Abuse and Risky Behaviors
- Increasing Women's Access to Sanitary and Hygiene Products

Attendees praised both the academic depth and the community relevance of the students' work. One student researcher shared, *"The opportunity to participate in community-based education helped me use the skills I learn in school to solve real problems that matter. Every school needs community-based education because it helps students understand their purpose and make a real impact."*

Following the Expo, the Forum featured two interconnected panel discussions that showcased both student leadership and cross-sector collaboration. The CBE Student Ambassador Panel offered student researchers the opportunity to reflect on their projects, discuss their research processes, and share how community-based education prepares youth to become global citizens. Immediately after, the CBE Collaborative Panel brought together students, educators,



and community partners to highlight the importance of partnership, share best practices, and demonstrate how collective action strengthens the impact of the CBE Community Advocacy Project©. Together, the panels illustrated the full ecosystem of Community-Based Education—from student inquiry to community collaboration.

The event concluded with a Certificate Ceremony honoring the student researchers, educators, and community partners whose dedication and leadership shaped the Forum’s success. In the closing moments, Dr. Ife unveiled the visionary plan for global CBE Centers—innovative schools designed to anchor academic learning in community impact, with the goal of establishing the first centers on the African continent.

“Our students have shown that when education is rooted in purpose, collaboration, and real-world application, it becomes a force for transformation,” Dr. Ife said. “The CBE Centers represent the next evolution of this work.”

This year’s Forum reaffirmed the momentum of the Community-Based Education movement—a movement committed to empowering youth, strengthening communities, and cultivating Africa’s future leaders through purposeful, community-rooted learning.

Learn more at [CBEmovement.com](http://CBEmovement.com)