

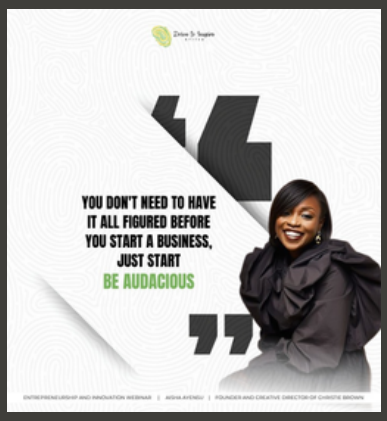
THE DRIVE REPORT

OCTOBER 2026

Recent Updates:



DRIVE TO INSPIRE - AFRICA JOINS CERVEAU INITIATIVE TO MARK PINK OCTOBER



BE AUDACIOUS

Lessons from our October Webinar with Aisha Ayensu



DTI-A & SMF WELCOME NEW SCHOLARS

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DTI-A WELCOME 10 NEW SCHOLARS UNDER THE DTI-A-SMF PARTNERSHIP

Drive to Inspire – Africa LBG (DTI-A) and the Sanjeev Mansotra Foundation (SMF) have welcomed a new cohort of 10 tertiary students into the DTI-A scholarship programme. Existing scholars also received laptops to support their studies. The event took place in Accra on 30th October 2026, with scholars and representatives of both organisations in attendance.

The 10 new scholars were selected through a competitive process, based on academic excellence and financial need. They join a programme that supports brilliant but underprivileged young people to access tertiary education, alongside mentorship and long-term empowerment opportunities. The new awards were made possible by SMF's financial support under the partnership announced on 21st April 2026.

Having previously supported young women, DTI-A has extended its reach to male tertiary students, making this the first cohort with male beneficiaries.

Some existing DTI-A scholars also received laptops. The devices will give them dependable access to learning resources, research and online coursework, and help them build the digital skills that today's academic and professional environments demand.

Founder of the Sanjeev Mansotra Foundation and Chairman of Planet One Group, Mr. Sanjeev Mansotra, said in his remarks: 'We are pleased on the collaboration with DTIA as partner for the Scholarship Program. Our vision for Ghana is that every capable child, regardless of circumstance, can pursue its ambitions and return value to the community. The scholars of today will be the innovators, educators, and leaders who build the Ghana of tomorrow. When we educate a girl, we strengthen a family, a community, and a nation.

Speaking at the event, Founder of Drive to Inspire — Africa, Nana Adjoa Hackman, recalled that the scholarship was the programme she was most anxious about when DTI-A began, as she feared a rush of applications without the resources to handle them. The scholarship programme launched at the end of 2024 with 17 young women admitted to 11 tertiary institutions across Ghana, and has since grown to 70 scholars, which she credited to partners such as the Sanjeev Mansotra Foundation. She pointed to early results, including scholars who have won student elections, secured placements with Bank of America and KPMG, and set themselves on track for first-class degrees.
She also urged the beneficiaries to take every opportunity as an investment in their future, to make the most of the opportunity and to excel. She expressed her gratitude to the Sanjeev Mansotra Foundation for its continued support.

Representing the Sanjeev Mansotra Foundation, Group Company Secretary & Head of Corporate Affairs for the SMF Mr. Ganesh Umashankar stressed in his address that education is key, and that no one should be left behind in its pursuit. This, he explained, is why the Foundation is awarding scholarships to both male and female students. He urged the beneficiaries to learn and, in turn, make an impact in their communities. He added that in its drive to support both young men and young women, the Foundation looked for the right organisation to partner with and found Drive to Inspire-Africa to be a good fit.

The partnership also offers DTI-A scholarship beneficiaries the opportunity to study at the University of Stirling, UK (Ras Al Khaimah Campus), subject to meeting the university's entry requirements and gaining admission.














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FAITH
PATIENCE
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FOUNDATION

DTI-A Scholars Gain Industry Experience Through Internships

We are proud to celebrate two of our scholars, Lawrencia Maame Ama Boateng and Benedicta Owusu Afriyie, who have completed internship programmes at KPMG Ghana and Serene Insurance respectively. Their experiences mark an important milestone in their academic and professional journeys, demonstrating the value of connecting education with real-world opportunities.

Lawrencia, a level 400 Accounting Student at the University of Professional Studies, Accra, recently concluded her internship at KPMG Ghana, gaining valuable exposure to the professional environment and the practical application of her academic knowledge.

Reflecting on her experience, she expressed deep gratitude to the management and staff of KPMG Ghana for their guidance, encouragement, and willingness to share their expertise. She described the internship as a meaningful chapter of learning, growth, and professional connections that she will carry with her beyond the experience.

She also acknowledged Drive to Inspire-Africa, particularly its leadership, for believing in her potential and making the opportunity possible. Her experience highlights the importance of providing young people with platforms to learn from experienced professionals, develop workplace competencies, and begin building meaningful careers.

For Benedicta, a level 400, Logistics Student at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the opportunity provided an important step in her transition from academic learning to the professional world. Through the internship, Benedicta had the opportunity to gain workplace exposure and experience the expectations and dynamics of a professional environment.

At DTI-A, we recognise that academic achievement is only one part of preparing young people for the future. Access to internships, mentorship, professional networks, and practical learning experiences can help bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace.

The journeys of Lawrencia and Benedicta reflect our commitment to supporting young people as they take meaningful steps towards their professional aspirations. We are grateful to KPMG Ghana and Serene Insurance for providing opportunities for young talent to gain valuable workplace exposure and learn within professional settings.

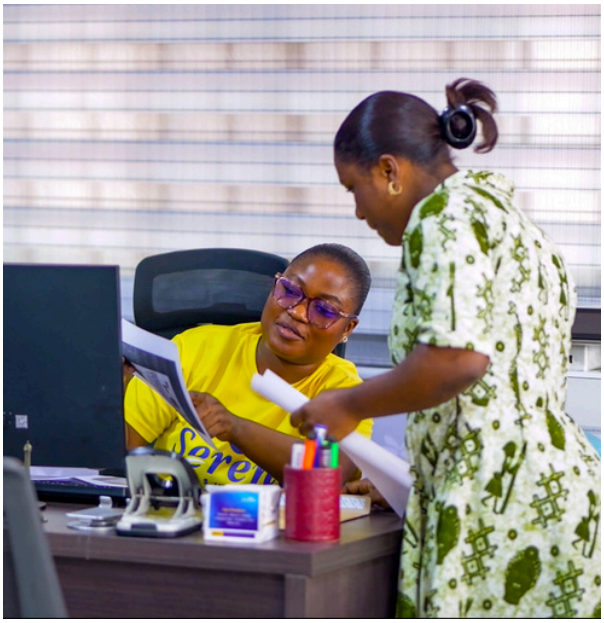
Every young person deserves an opportunity to put their knowledge into practice, discover their strengths, and prepare for the future. Lawrencia and Benedicta's experiences remind us of what is possible when organisations open their doors to young talent.

At Drive to Inspire-Africa, we believe that creating opportunities for young people is a shared responsibility.

We invite organisations across industries to partner with us by offering internship placements, mentorship, and practical workplace learning experiences to our scholars.

For partnership: kindly reach out to us on +233 53 518 3274 or send us a mail info@drivetoinspireafrica.org

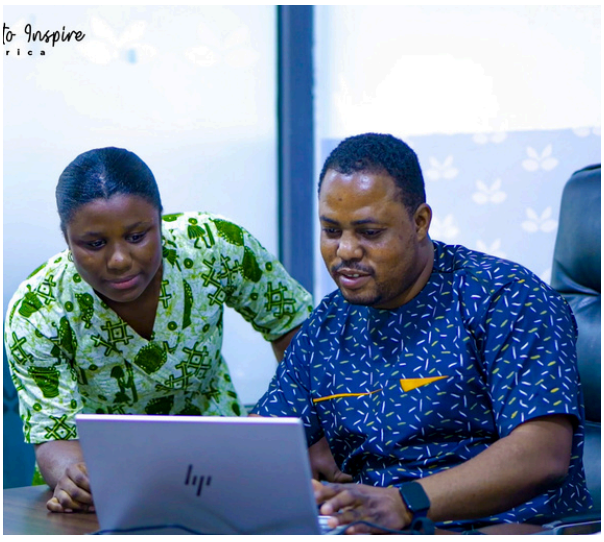












Lawrencia (left) with her colleagues and the Country Manager Partner - KPMG ,Mr. Andrew Akoto (down) and Benedicta (right) with her supervisors at Serene Insurance

Drive to Inspire
Africa



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WE CONDEMN ABUSE. #ProtectOurGirls WE STAND FOR SAFETY.

EVERY GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE

Sexual abuse has no place in our schools, homes or communities

PROTECTING GIRLS IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. SILENCE SHIELDS ABUSERS; ACCOUNTABILITY PROTECTS GIRLS.

BE AUDACIOUS: LESSONS FROM DTI-A'S WEBINAR ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION



In the month of October, Drive to Inspire-Africa hosted a webinar on "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" facilitated by Aisha Ayensu, Founder / Creative Director of Christie Brown. The session left participants with a clear message: you don't have to wait for perfect conditions to build something of your own.

One of the strongest takeaways was that you don't need to have everything figured out before you start a business. Many aspiring entrepreneurs hold back because they feel they lack a complete plan, enough funding or the right experience. The webinar encouraged participants to take the first step, and to learn, adjust and grow from there.

Closely linked to this was a call to be audacious. Bold ideas rarely feel comfortable at the start, and the willingness to try something others haven't, or to back yourself when the path isn't clear, is often what separates an idea from a business.

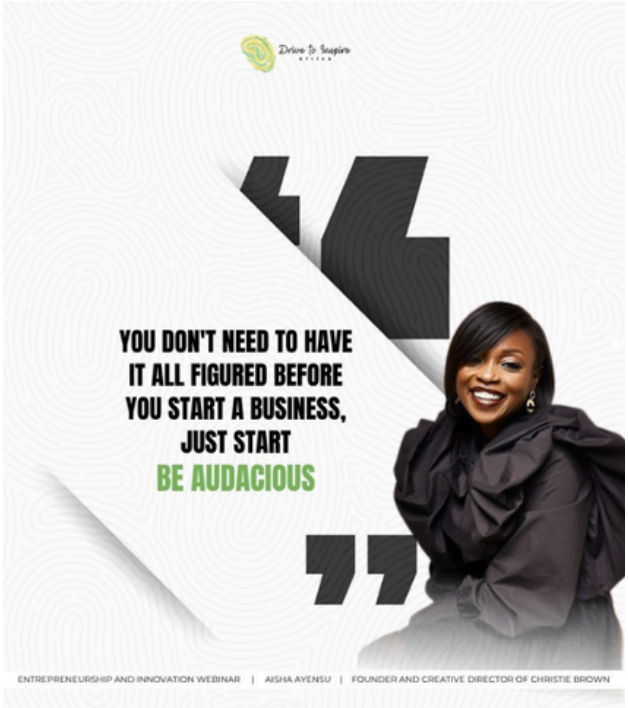
Participants were also encouraged to build a relationship with the people their idea would serve before launching it. When you understand their needs, challenges and expectations first, you create something that fits their lives instead of something you hope they will want. Those relationships also give you an early audience and honest feedback.

The webinar stressed that connections aren't only found in high places. The people around you, including peers, classmates, mentors, family and community members, can open doors, share opportunities and offer support. Treating every relationship with care and consistency pays off over time.

For those worried that someone else has already started what they want to launch, the message was reassuring. If other businesses are doing something similar, the answer is to bring a unique offering to your idea in a way that creates value. Being first matters less than offering something people can't easily get elsewhere.

Innovation and entrepreneurship go hand in hand
Running through all of these points was the reminder that entrepreneurship and innovation go hand in hand. Starting a business is one part of the journey, and finding better, fresher and more useful ways to serve people is what makes it last.

If you missed out on this session, watch a recap on Youtube (Drive to Inspire - Africa)



ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP: JOIN DTI-A'S NEXT WEBINAR



Drive to Inspire – Africa (DTI-A) invites you to its next webinar, **"Ethics, Integrity and Responsible Leadership"**, on Thursday 26th November 2026 at 6PM. The speaker is Mr. Stephen Enebeli Annan, Senior Manager at KPMG, Forensic Services.

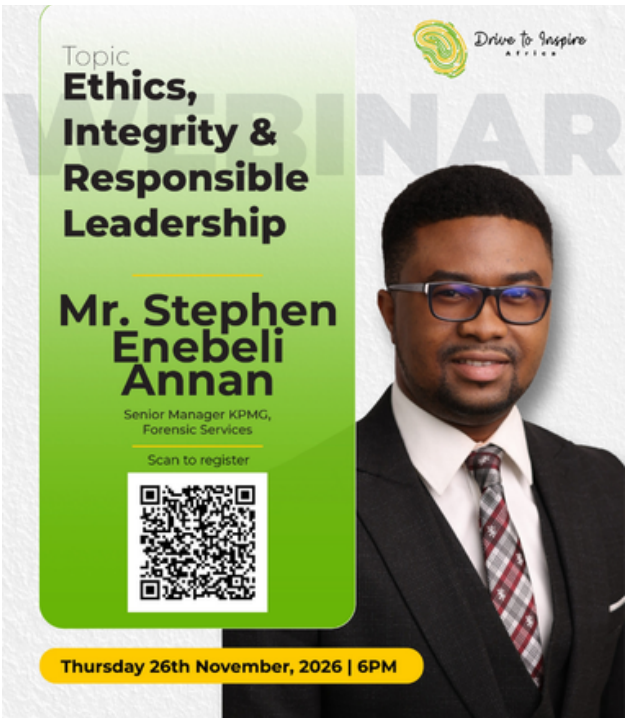
Talent and ambition open doors, but character decides how far a leader can go and what they leave behind. For young Africans preparing to step into workplaces, businesses and public life, the choices they make about honesty, accountability and fairness will shape their careers and the institutions they serve. This webinar puts those choices at the centre of the conversation.

Mr. Annan brings a professional view of these questions from his work in forensic services at KPMG. Participants will have the chance to learn from someone who understands what is at stake when integrity is tested, and what responsible leadership looks like in practice.

The session is open to DTI-A scholars, alumni, mentors, mentees and to anyone who wants to lead with purpose, whether they are a student, an early-career professional or a budding entrepreneur.

Scan the QR code on the webinar flyer to secure your place, or register here: [insert registration link]. Mark your calendar for Thursday 26th November at 6PM, and invite a friend.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

DRIVE TO INSPIRE - AFRICA JOINS CERVEAU INITIATIVE TO MARK PINK OCTOBER



October is observed worldwide as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, popularly known as Pink October. This year, Drive to Inspire-Africa marked the month by joining Cerveau Initiatives, one of our valued sponsors through activities that put care, access and dignity at the center of the fight against breast cancer.
Free Breast Cancer Screening at Bukom Arena

On 8th October, our team joined Cerveau Initiatives at the Bukom Arena for a community outreach offering free breast cancer screening. The exercise brought health services directly to residents, removing the barriers of cost and distance that often keep people from getting checked.

Early detection saves lives. When breast cancer is found early, treatment is generally more effective and outcomes are better. Free community screenings like this one help more people know their status and, where necessary, be referred for further care without delay.

On 27th October, the Drive to Inspire-Africa team joined Cerveau Initiatives at the Korle Bu Surgical Unit for the handover of a newly renovated consulting room. Cerveau Initiatives presented the keys to the management of Korle Bu, formally turning the refurbished space over to the hospital.

A well-equipped, comfortable consulting room matters more than it may seem. It is where patients are first seen, where difficult news is shared with care, and where treatment plans begin. By investing in this space, Cerveau Initiatives has strengthened the quality of care patients receive at one of the country's most important referral hospitals. We were proud to witness the handover and to see the generosity of a partner of our organisation put to work for the benefit of so many.

Cerveau Initiatives supports the work of Drive to Inspire-Africa, and it was a privilege to stand with them as they gave back to the community. Their activities this month show that the fight against breast cancer needs both prevention and treatment: reaching people early in their own communities, and ensuring that quality facilities are ready to care for them when they need it.

On behalf of everyone at Drive to Inspire-Africa, we thank Cerveau Initiatives for their continued support and for the example they set through their work.

Our commitment to community wellbeing does not end with Pink October. We encourage everyone to make regular breast self-examination a habit, to attend screenings when they are offered, and to see a health professional promptly if they notice any change in their breasts.








RELIEF & AID
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IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Aisha Ayensu — Founder/ Creative Director, Christie Brown

In 2008, Aisha Ayensu transformed her passion for fashion into a vision to create a luxury brand rooted in African identity. Inspired by her grandmother, Christie Brown, a Ghanaian designer whose craftsmanship influenced her creative journey, Aisha established a fashion house that celebrates heritage while embracing contemporary design.

Named in honour of her grandmother, Christie Brown reflects a legacy of craftsmanship, creativity, and cultural pride. The brand is recognised for its distinctive designs, intricate detailing, and bold interpretation of African culture, combining traditional artisanal techniques with modern silhouettes.

Through its collections, Christie Brown demonstrates how Ghanaian craftsmanship can be reimagined for contemporary audiences while preserving the cultural influences that make its designs distinctive.
Aisha Ayensu's work has earned recognition within and beyond Africa. In 2009, she received the Emerging Designer of the Year award at Africa Fashion Week in South Africa, an early milestone in her career. The following year, Christie Brown participated in the Arise L'Afrique-à-Porter showcase during Paris Fashion Week, helping introduce the Ghanaian label to a wider international fashion audience.

Her entrepreneurial achievements also attracted recognition from Forbes, which included her among its 30 Most Promising African Entrepreneurs in 2016. In Ghana, her influence in fashion was further acknowledged when she won African Designer of the Year at the Glitz Style Awards in 2018 and 2019.

Christie Brown's designs have also attracted prominent personalities, including Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, Kelly Rowland, Jackie Appiah, and Genevieve Nnaji. The brand's association with Beyoncé's Mrs. Carter Show World Tour through costume design further demonstrated the potential of Ghanaian creative talent to contribute to major international entertainment productions.

Aisha Ayensu's journey reached another significant milestone in September 2026 when Christie Brown was featured at Harrods, the prestigious luxury department store in London, through Brand63Africa, a platform created to connect designers of African heritage with global luxury markets.

The showcase, which ran from 7 September to 27 October 2026, brought together five fashion houses from Africa and its diaspora, including Christie Brown from Ghana, alongside designers from Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and Trinidad and Tobago.
This milestone placed Christie Brown before an international luxury retail audience, offering customers an opportunity to discover and purchase designs rooted in Ghanaian craftsmanship and contemporary African aesthetics.

More than an opportunity for visibility, the Harrods showcase represented an important step in connecting African fashion businesses with international retail opportunities. It demonstrated how homegrown creative enterprises can bring their products into influential global markets without losing the cultural identity at the heart of their work.

For Ghana, Christie Brown's presence at Harrods also highlights the potential of the country's creative industry to contribute to global fashion and luxury conversations.

Beyond creating beautiful garments, Aisha Ayensu has built a brand around a powerful idea: African creativity and craftsmanship deserve recognition within the global luxury fashion industry.

Christie Brown brings traditional influences, including Kente and wax prints, into modern designs that appeal to a contemporary, international audience.
The brand's journey reflects the possibilities that emerge when cultural heritage meets innovation. Rather than separating tradition from modernity, Christie Brown brings them together, demonstrating how African influences can shape contemporary fashion and establish a distinctive global design identity.

Aisha Ayensu's story offers an important lesson young women entrepreneurs and creatives: a strong business can grow from personal inspiration, a clear vision, and a commitment to excellence.

Own a DTI-A merch, support the education of a brilliant student

Supporting the education of young people across Africa has never been easier following the launch of DTI-A's Built for More campaign, which is aimed at raising funds to support our scholarship programme through the sale of souvenirs.

The campaign provides an accessible way for individuals and organisations to contribute directly to the educational journeys of young people, while also becoming part of a growing community committed to youth development. For more information or to support the campaign, please contact us at info@drivetoinspireafrica.org or call +233535183274

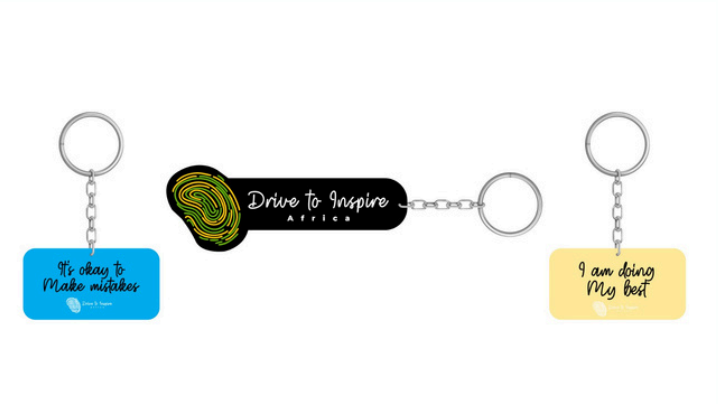









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Africa


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Make mistakes
I am doing
My best


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GETTER
ACTUALLY,
I CAN
&
I WILL.
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hard things
club

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You can sponsor students' tertiary education or fund an outreach programme at your alma mater to inspire the next generation.

VOLUNTEER

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