

Dibia DREAM was formed in 2014 as a 501(c)3 organization to serve youth from Miami, Bermuda, and New Orleans. The foundation of the programming was to help communities grow stronger children physically, mentally, and socially. This inherently created a combination of athletics and academics along with mentoring to meet in programming designed for participants.

Under the leadership of Brandon Okpalobi, the DREAM has expanded and sustained the quality of the program for the youth that are served not only in the first three focused areas but have grown to operate in 26 states and 4 countries. The hybrid model helps youth beat the odds and focuses on them achieving their dreams that may be sparked through DREAM Academy (after-school) serving K-8 Students, STEM Saturdays (weekend enrichment), and SPARK Summer Institute (summer program) in the original target areas.

Even in a pandemic Dibia DREAM has maintained their outreach to youth ages 7 to 16 throughout the forementioned areas but has also expanded to the founder's country of heritage Nigeria. Sending STEM and art kits to youth participants for virtual STEM Saturdays has continued the mission of the organization and the standard that "we are in this together" to another level by keeping their learning and community intact. The impact of learning and community has grown to over 5,000 youth. Which has also increased parent engagement.

"The problems that we face today will not be fixed by us, so we have to develop and cultivate the future," said Okpalobi. "The next generation on innovators and leaders may come from Dibia DREAM. We have to give them the tools that will help them grow and also the responsibility to reach back to help the next generation to grow."

With the world changing because of COVID-19 Dibia DREAM responded to help those in need, with PPE, re-initiating DREAMPaks to address food insecurity in families, redefined and retrained its Enhancement Coordinators to meet the needs of DREAM Scholars, also defining policies around staff wellness.

Dibia DREAM is enhancing the "intellectual property" of our youth. These youth from underserved and discarded communities, by some, will rise like a phoenix out of the technological dead zones and to run the world.