



## **The Vanguard Podcast Network Powered by Afros & Audio Launches New College Initiative Podcast Program**

*New college program aimed at creating more Black podcast creatives and audio professionals.*

The Vanguard Podcast Network, powered by Afros & Audio™ (VPN), an audio storytelling platform for and about people of the African Diaspora, launches its national podcast program for Black college students.

The program, titled “Rebel Class,” is an ambitious initiative that will connect college students interested in learning the fundamentals of podcasting, podcast production, B2B podcasting, marketing, and distribution. According to Grand View Research, “The global podcasting market size was valued at USD 11.46 billion in 2020 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 31.1% from 2021 to 2028.”

“The Rebel Class campaign mission is to increase active podcasts by Black creatives in the global market; support industry DEI hiring efforts through certified skill training; and spark an enthusiastic new audience of Black listeners,” says Talib Jasir, Founder/CEO of the Vanguard Podcast Network.

Talib is also credited with starting the Afros & Audio Podcast Festival, the first two-day conference for and by Black independent podcast creatives and audio professionals.

The annual event and podcast network have been at the forefront of progressive projects designed to amplify Black voices since 2019. “VPN’s mission is to increase the number of active Black podcasts in the global market by teaching the next generation of podcast creatives and audio professionals the skills to capitalize on the momentum of the industry,” says Community Director, Michael McConnell.



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The Rebel Class is set to launch its program in Fall/Winter of 2022 and is currently in negotiations with various colleges and universities. In the interim, The Rebel Class will be launching its social media account via Instagram to educate and promote diversity in the podcast industry. The platforms will host interviews with key notable black podcasters and share industry data.

The Vanguard Podcast team is composed of veteran podcast professionals, audio engineering techs, and storytellers looking to make an impact and share their invaluable knowledge with black students across all collegiate institutions.

To learn more about the Rebel Class program, please follow @therebelclass on Instagram and visit <https://www.vanguardpn.com/therebelclass>

### **About Vanguard Podcast Network**

The Vanguard Podcast Network is an audio storytelling platform for and about people of the African Diaspora. In our network, all Black lives and stories matter regardless of age, politics, sexual and/or gender identities, religion, nationality, etc.

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