

# ED RECOGNITION AWARD 2023



Nene Columba Ba, the ED Recognition award Recipient 2022, receiving the award from Camelia Barrit and Emma Inns of OCLF



The OCLF-OCSB Home Based Business program has allowed me to dive deeply in the business systems, models and methods that I will need to launch my business.

- Nene Columba Ba, HBB Graduate



Nene's story is a real example of how you can turn every challenge into an opportunity, with perseverance and passion. Nene started following her dream to be involved in the culinary arts by opening her first restaurant, called Maa'na in French Polynesia.

In 2016, her husband received a work opportunity in Canada. On her arrival to Canada, Nene signed up for the culinary management Program at La Cite Collegial, graduating in 2018. After the training, Nene dove head-in to entrepreneurship and opened a small catering business called Coumba's Catering. She began selling her food at sporting events, farmers' markets, and growing her business slowly and steadily.

At the same time, she enrolled in an Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) English class where she then discovered the Home-Based Business (HBB) program. She not only excelled in the HBB program, had perfect attendance and her final pitch presentation was outstanding.

She continued her catering business, building it slowly and eventually attained a large contract of catering an event with over 1,000 people. Since then, in Q1 2024 Nene opened her storefront creperie, called "Les Gateries, Le Petit Paris" located in Kanata, Ottawa.

We feel Nene is a deserving recipient for this nomination with her undying spirit and dedication to her trade. She is the true definition of an entrepreneur. We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Nene - such a role model to other women entrepreneurs!