



ASHESI

THE EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Education Collaborative is an Ashesi University initiative launched in 2017. The Collaborative was established to respond to the increasing need for quality higher education amidst the growing population on the African continent. Improving the quality of education on a large scale requires exemplary institutions to share their resources with other institutions and lead the transformation agenda.

The Education Collaborative's aim is to create a network of higher education institutions that are uncompromising in achieving excellence in teaching and learning, research, innovation, and quality student outcomes in Africa. At the Collaborative, we create an ecosystem for sharing resources, using convenings and workshops to foster deep-level mentorship among higher education institutions in our network.

Through our programs and engagement, we help higher education institutions become student-centered, innovative, and continually relevant, while upholding these five shared Transformational Goals:

- ◆ Ethics and leadership development in students

- ◆ Training students for relevant career readiness

- ◆ Enabling an active entrepreneurship ecosystem

- ◆ An active system for 360 accountability that ensures institutional sustainability

- ◆ Inclusive and diverse campuses

For the year 2020, the Education Collaborative explored innovative ways to advance these transformation goals. Despite the disruptive nature of COVID-19 on educational systems across the globe, our engagements and collaborations with educational institutions in Africa, highlighted the commitment and the capacity of stakeholders to innovate and lead the transformation of the sector.

Our annual convening, for the first time, was held virtually on June 16th on the theme "Changing the narrative on African higher education". The conference shared context-specific successful university strategies, administration, teaching, and learning approaches used to sustain institutions during the COVID-19 period and campus shutdowns. Sessions discussed institutional and governance policy considerations post-COVID-19, diversity and inclusion in online learning for students living with disabilities, and strategies for preparing students to succeed in the job market.

The six-sessioned conference attracted 285 higher-Ed stakeholders from 144 institutions across 37 countries from four continents. Sixteen speakers, panelists, facilitators, and moderators led sessions and discussions at the virtual conference. The conference was also live streamed on the social pages of Ashesi University, the Education Collaborative, Association of African Universities and on the campus of African Development University. Among the stakeholders engaged during the conference, some are working with the Collaborative on ongoing projects while others are in the process of getting onboard our projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beyond annual convenings, the Collaborative has a one-on-one customized mentorship program which takes a holistic approach in setting educational institutions up for success. Through this mentorship program, Ashesi University provided support to African Development University (ADU) via faculty exchange programs, curriculum development and review, team set-up and funding. ADU welcomed on its campus, three faculty from Ashesi to teach four courses for 1 week. With Ashesi's help and mentorship, ADU re-developed a 3-year liberal arts curriculum, set up an executive team and recruited faculty and faculty associates.

The Collaborative organized a capacity training workshop for 31 tutors of Kibi Presbyterian College of Education (KPCE) to help them transition to online instruction and sustain the institution during the peak period of the pandemic. Collectively, the tutors taught, and applied lessons learned to 1791 students remotely. Plans are underway for Ashesi to mentor KPCE to build systems for adoption of the honor system and improve their community engagements.

A Giving Voice to Values (GVV) train-the-trainer workshop was organized for 21 tutors from five organizations across three countries. This training offered participants with ways to educate ethical leaders in their institutions. The Collaborative awarded grants of \$500 each to three organizations that attended the workshop to adopt GVV into their context and educate their fellow tutors and students. A total of 200 teachers are benefitting from this support with the potential of impacting more than 10,000 students with ethics education.

As part of our plans to impact students at the pre-tertiary level, we established the Ashesi-before-Ashesi program. Towards this goal, a grant of \$17,020 was awarded to Practical Education Network (PEN) to virtually train over 100 teachers on modules to improve STEM education in Ghana. With our newly launched website and learning management system (LMS), PEN will develop online modules on these trainings and host them on the LMS, making the modules accessible to thousands of teachers all over the continent.

To improve accountability of high-ed institutions in the network, a consortium has been contracted to develop a university ranking system that tracks the progress of tertiary institutions towards the achievement of the Collaborative's transformational goals.

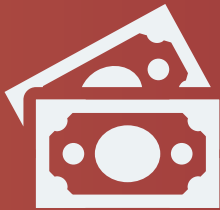
Four years of the Collaborative's operations has presented key learnings and a clearer focus which can be leveraged to scale our impact. To that end, the Collaborative has embarked on a review of its strategy and has drawn up a 10-year strategic plan, Vision 2030. The coming years will see deeper collaboration centered on the Five Transformational goals. Through affiliations and decentralized ownership of the transformation mandate, the network will increase its impact in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2020 MAJOR OUTCOMES IN NUMBERS



1 continent-wide virtual conference attended by 285 higher-Ed stakeholders from 144 institutions across 37 countries on 4 continents.

Organized a customized training workshop for a college of education with an attendance of 30 participants who applied lessons learned to impact 1791 students.



\$18,520 in grants awarded to 4 organizations to impact 300 high school teachers.

1 mentorship partnership impacting over 143 students in Niger.



19,300 people engaged on Facebook and 131,700 impressions received on our content on Twitter

2020 MAJOR OUTCOMES IN NUMBERS



Organized Giving Voice to Values (GVV) workshop for 21 participants from five institutions across three countries

Started an Ethics and Leadership Community of Practice with a GVV basis; To engage orgs. and educators who hold trainings in ethics and leadership.



Constituted a consulting committee of business and strategy professionals to support the development and rollout of EduCollab Vision 2030

Full start-up team engaged for Programmes, Communications and PR, and Research, M&E and Learning



13 teachers from eight schools across 5 regions in Ghana engaged in a pilot on our Virtual Hub on Incorporating Critical Thinking for High School Teachers

LOOKING AHEAD - 2021 PLANS

The focus of the Collaborative for 2021 is to transition at scale through the implementation of the strategic plan. Key activities and priorities for 2021 are as follows

PROGRAMS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Develop thought leadership and deepen knowledge sharing platforms

- GVV Africa development
- Communities of practice (Entrepreneurship, Ethic & leadership, Research)
- Design and rollout the CoPs fellowship program
- Launch virtual learning hub (LMS)
- Develop a playbook for entrepreneurship ecosystem development for HEIs

Build capacity for institutional accountability

- Engage consultants to complete Phase I - III of the index development
- Engage partners (HEI, industry, development agency) to design proposal to develop data tracking system for HEIs

Mentorship and regional hub development

- Engage one institution in East Africa as partner for hub development
- Set up first hub office in East Africa
- Launch Africa Exemplar HEI Development Fund
- Develop executive-mentorship engagement program

MEMBER ENGAGEMENTS

In 2020, the Collaborative started conversations with the following institutions in east and west Africa, and seeks to establish formal partnerships in 2021.

INSTITUTION	COUNTRY
Ibanda University	Uganda
Kyambogo University	Uganda
Burkina Institute of Technology	Burkina Faso
AMP Health	Ghana
University of Cape Coast	Ghana
Université Polytechnique de Bingerville	Ivory Coast
Gies Business School/IBC at the University of Illinois	USA
Kepler	Rwanda

ABOUT THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The Education Collaborative is an initiative of Ashesi University. The Collaborative enables the systemic transformation of higher education in Africa by developing a network of exemplar institutions that work with stakeholders to achieve extraordinary student outcomes. The goal is to build these exemplar institutions to peer mentor other institutions and transform them to become exemplars. The network advocates for and contributes to regulatory reforms to integrate the best educational practices. Over time, the network will establish systems for higher education institutions and stakeholders to calibrate an institution's progress to becoming an exemplar. We help higher education institutions to become student-centred, innovative, and continually relevant, and uphold these shared values:

- Ethics and leadership development in students
- Training students for relevant career readiness
- Enabling an active entrepreneurship ecosystem
- An active system for 360 accountability that ensures institutional sustainability
- Inclusive and diverse campuses.

Since its inception in 2017, the Education Collaborative has successfully engaged 34 institutions in face-to-face convenings and is mentoring two institutions. The initiative is already, directly and indirectly, impacting more than 150 educators and over 3500 students in more than 10 countries in Africa

CONTACT US AND KEEP UPDATED



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