

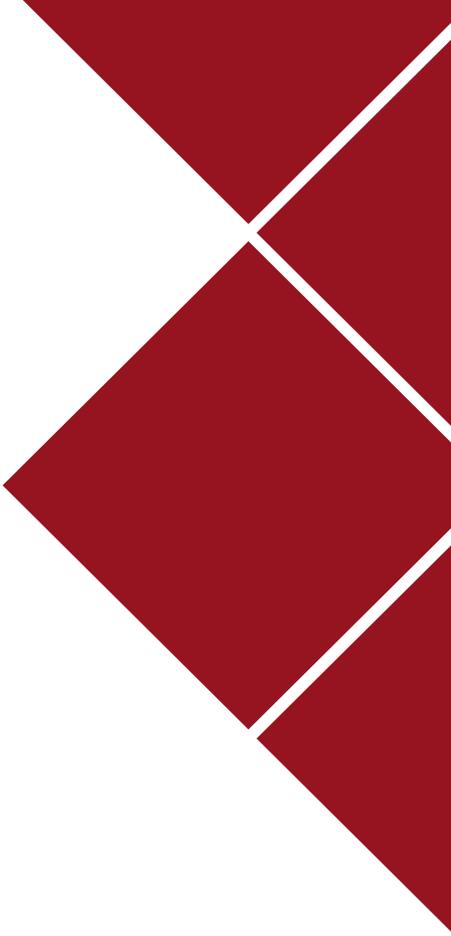


# THE 2019 EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE

COLLABORATING ON STRATEGIES FOR UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

CONFERENCE REPORT | 10TH – 11TH JUNE 2019

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# CONFERENCE METHODOLOGY & AUDIENCE

The first edition of the Executive Conference engaged 19 university leaders from 10 institutions representing six countries in Africa and the USA. Participants were involved in big-picture conversations on developing institutional competencies to achieve more significant impact through education; in the face of exponential population growth, technology, and globalization. We realized the need to bring all stakeholders in African education together to strategize for the impending population growth in Africa by 2050. Engaging stakeholders at levels of governance and administration within universities in Africa means a greater chance for institution-wide change.

This inaugural conference brought together African University Presidents, Founders, Chancellors, Directors, Provosts, Deans, and Heads of Departments to explore how African institutions can position themselves through collaborations to get ahead of the anticipated population growth on the continent.

## EXECUTIVES ENGAGED IN

\* Sessions on collaborative efforts, shaping institutional values and culture, evaluation and impact measurement of institutional efforts to lead change, faculty and staff development, and strategic planning and university management for the future.

\* A panel discussion where the value of rankings for the African University was deliberated and how institutions can fit within standards.

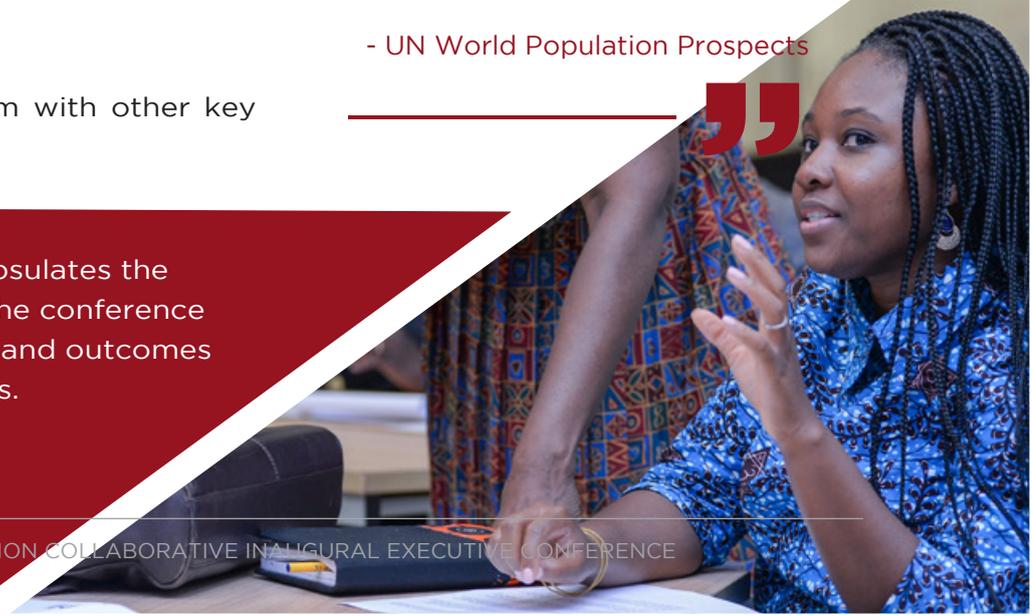
\* The breakfast symposium with other key stakeholders in education.

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Preparing Africa's demographic transition: "By 2050 more than half of the world's population growth will occur in Africa. The continent's population is estimated to double to 2.5 billion, and over 60% of Africa's population will be under age 25 "

- UN World Population Prospects

This report summary encapsulates the insights and highlights of the conference and is based on responses and outcomes from 13 of the 19 executives.



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Generally, participants affirmed that all the sessions were right in the context of running higher education institutions in Africa, and the challenges that confront the continent. All programs facilitated networking and bonding amongst participants.

## SESSIONS

<b>Welcome address</b>	<b>Africa's Agenda 2063:</b> The University's Role	<b>Success, Not Just Access:</b> Ensuring the University Ecosystem evolves to Support the Success of the Student	<b>Ahead of Africa's youth explosion:</b> Strategizing with the data
Building agility for innovation into your institution's strategy			

## PROGRAMS

Panel Discussion: Beyond rankings: Defining Success for an African University	University Stakeholder Symposium
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## EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

Campus Tour	Executives Dinner
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**Magali Rheault, Regional Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, Gallup World Poll**



Magali Rheault is a Regional Research Director for the Gallup World Poll. The WorldPoll is Gallup's annual research initiative that surveys 98% of the planet's population to measure wellbeing, health, employment and living conditions in more than 140 countries. Ms. Rheault leads survey research operations across sub-Saharan Africa and is responsible for sampling, questionnaire design, field staff

training, and quality control. Her main research interests focus on the intersection of governance, economic growth and human development in sub-Saharan Africa.

As an academically trained urban planner, Ms. Rheault focuses on big-picture thinking to better understand how people's surroundings shape their perceptions and opinions. She is passionate about translating data into information and knowledge to help clients incorporate survey findings into impactful initiatives. She has presented World Poll results at more than 25 institutions worldwide, including the United Nations (New York), King's College (London) and the Académie Diplomatique Internationale (Paris). In addition, she has authored more than 100 articles, reports and white papers related to human development, governance, jobs, and entrepreneurship.

## **AHEAD OF AFRICA'S YOUTH EXPLOSION: IMPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

By 2035, the number of working-age Africans will exceed that of all other regions of the world combined, according to the IMF. This demographic shift has important implications for national governments, educators and individuals across the region. Data from the Gallup World Poll bring insight into Africa's youth explosion. Drawing from surveys conducted between 2016 and 2018 across sub-Saharan African and representing the

opinions of 97% of Africans aged 15 and older, the World Poll gives a voice to those most affected by this youth bulge. Key findings around African youth's expectations for the future, their attitudes toward education and migration intentions as well as learnings from Gallup's education research can help decision-makers and educators prepare for this sweeping societal change

# AFRICA'S AGENDA 2063: THE UNIVERSITY'S ROLE

## **TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN AFRICA: A CONTINENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (2016-2025)**

*Kwesi Acquah Sam, Directorate of Research and Academic Planning, Association of African Universities*



Africa is ushering into an era that most observers and pundits are predicting will determine its destiny as the continent of the future. But to fulfill this promised bright future, the continent has to come to terms with the education and training systems still burdened by the weight of its colonial legacy and its own status as a relatively new political and economic entity and player in the world

arena. In the bid to “create” a new African citizen who will be an effective change agent for the continent’s sustainable development as envisioned by the AU and its 2063 Agenda, the African Union Commission has developed an Africa comprehensive ten-year continental education strategy (CES). This strategy is driven by the desire to set up a “qualitative system” of education and training to provide the African continent with efficient human resources adapted to African core values and therefore capable of achieving the vision and ambitions of the African Union. Those responsible for its implementation will be assigned to “reorient Africa’s education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation, and creativity required to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development at the national, sub-regional and continental levels”.



## BEYOND RANKINGS: DEFINING SUCCESS FOR AN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

The youthful population of Africa is increasing exponentially, and so is the need for higher education. Universities over the centuries have strategized to distinguish themselves as one of the best. With the new dynamism in population growth, innovation, technology, and globalization, how do we define the successful African University now and in the future? This panel discussion seeks to begin the conversation on what measures of impact and success should be used to define the progress of an African institution. What are the standards, who sets them, how do we fit within the ranks, or do we stand out?

**MODERATOR:** Prof. Angela Owusu-Ansah, Provost, Ashesi University

**PANELISTS:** Prof. Baylie Dantie, Vice Chancellor, Kepler, | Ato Micah, Managing Director, Maverick Research & Consulting | Madam Araba Botchway, Director, Admissions and Financial Aid, Ashesi University | Emeritus Prof. A.B. Assensoh, Professor, University of Oregon.

A major highlight of the conference, the panel discussion opened up the conversation on whether current rankings systems are enough as a measure of success for African Universities. And if not, what measures of impact and success should be used to define the progress of an African institution.

### SESSION OUTCOMES & LESSONS

In exploring the development of a standard measure for impact and success of African Universities, Executives noted the following should be considered:

Job placement of graduates	Retention rates
Students/alumni demonstration in solving the continent's challenges	High ethical standards of students
Inclusion of relevant stakeholders such as parents, students and society	High impact learning platforms at affordable prices
Mission alignment	Campus safety

**100%** OF PARTICIPANTS  
**COMMITTED**

TO BE PART OF THE EFFORT TO DESIGN A NEW EVALUATION SYSTEM (RANKING SYSTEM) FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

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"I am interested in the topic on the ranking of African Universities. This should encourage officials to make efforts to give the best of themselves in training Africa's future decision-makers"

Dr. Youssouf Méité, Director of Administration and Finance, Institut Universitaire Du Sud.

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"The topic of rankings was very pertinent, and I would wish to explore further how universities on the continent can work together for mission-aligned rankings."

- Araba Botchway, Director of Admissions, Ashesi University.

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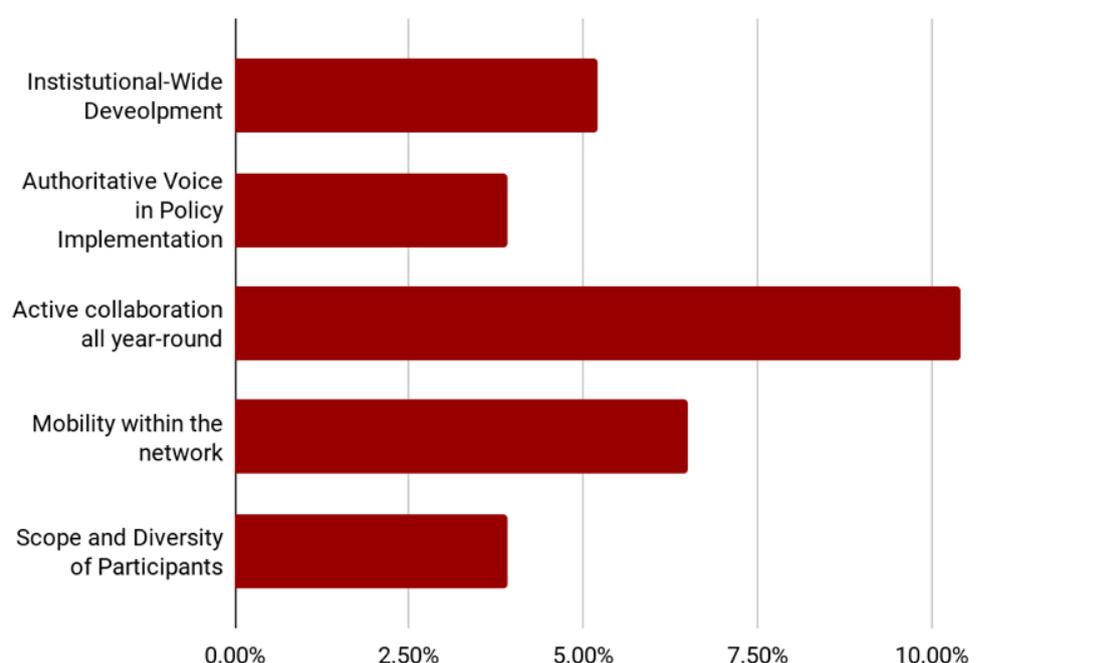
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# CONFERENCE EVALUATION, IMPACT & SUCCESS METRICS

# 100% **THE CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS**

OF RESPONDENTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BEING INVOLVED TO CREATE THE MEASURES. THIS FORMS THE TARGET PROJECT FOR EXECUTIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. TO CONSTITUTE SUCCESS OF A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES TO FACILITATE IMPACT IN AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION , EXECUTIVES NOTED THE FOLLOWING SUCCESS METRICS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:



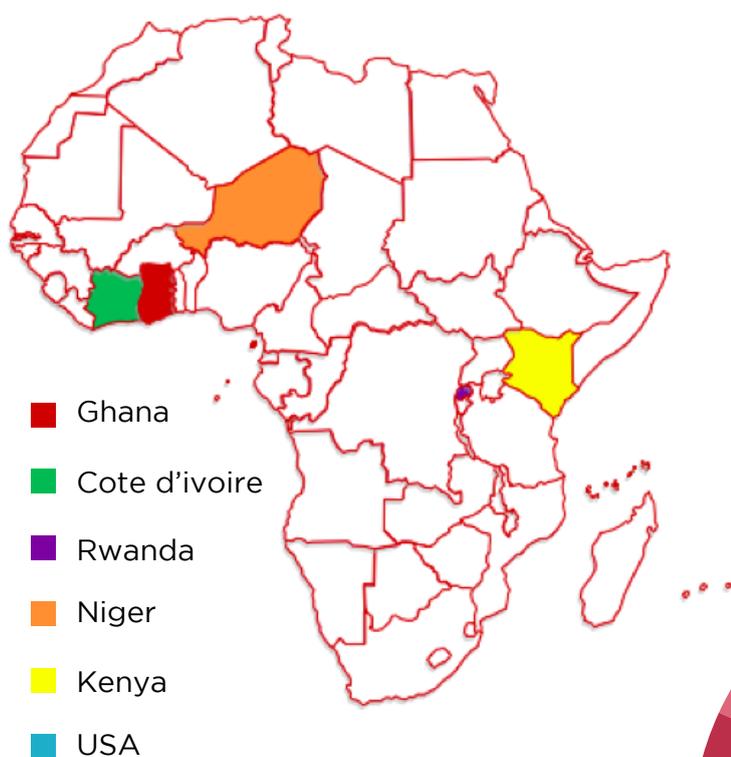
# COMMITMENTS MADE BY EXECUTIVES

“Explore more in curriculum development, staff mentoring and student exchange”

“I would like to collaborate with some institutions here in the following areas: Student Life & Experience, Student and Academic Counseling, Faculty (pedagogy and student engagement in the classroom) and staff training”.

“Given Botho’s existing competencies coupled with our previous work within the education sector on the continent, we would be very happy to find ways to support the member universities of the education collaborative in the following areas: (1) strategic planning; (2) partnership identification and engagement across public and private sectors; (3) research and analysis, especially market research that would help the university in question better position themselves relative to their target stakeholders in the broader ecosystem”

# PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY & INSTITUTIONS



## INSTITUTIONS PRESENT

ASHESI UNIVERSITY (CONVENER) | CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY | AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT UNIVERSITY | MARSHALLS COLLEGE | KEPLER | INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE DU SUD (UNIV-SUD) | PALM INSTITUTE | ACCRA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

# ABOUT THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The aim of the Education Collaborative is to serve as a platform for higher education institutions in Africa to engage and share with each other best practices in teaching, learning, and university administration and management; to develop best practices to train ethical, entrepreneurial leaders for Africa; and cultivate within our students the critical thinking skills, the concern for others and the courage it will take to transform a continent. We achieve this through annual workshops, and by staying connected throughout the year through research collaborations, mentorships, and faculty and administrators immersion programs.

## OUR PROGRAMS

The Executive Conference

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The Faculty & Administrator Workshop

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The University Stakeholder Symposium

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Ashesi Mentorship Program

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Year-Round Engagements - Communities of practice

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Year-Round Engagements - Customized workshops and training

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Year-Round Engagements - Collaborative Webinar Series

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