

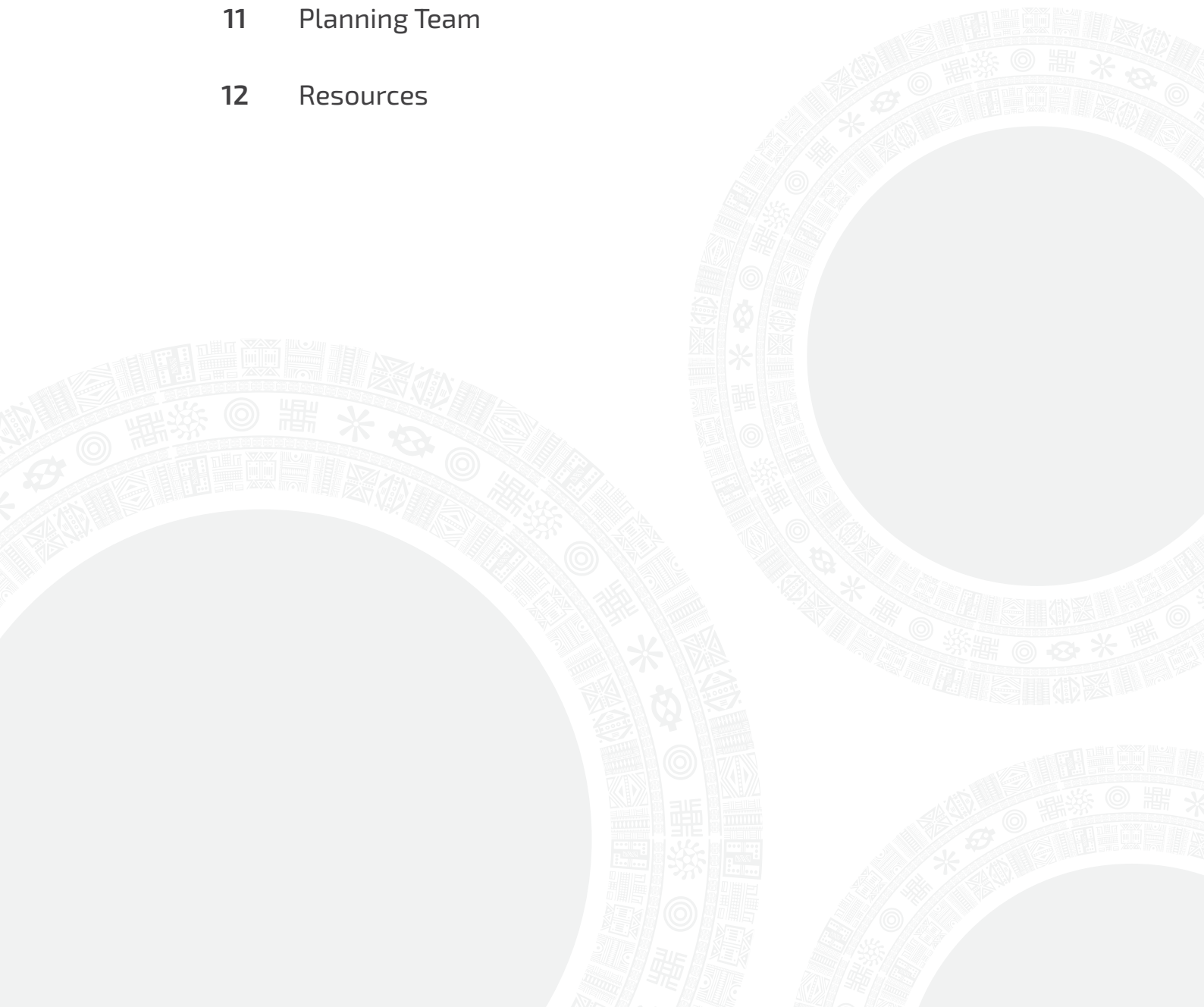
# THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

2022 EAST AFRICA HUB CONVENING  
SUMMARY REPORT | OCTOBER 2022



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# Executive Summary

The East Africa (EA) Regional Hub Convening was an event that brought together key stakeholders in the higher education sector of East Africa, including university and organizational leaders, faculty and administrators, regulators, industry professionals, and student leadership. The purpose of the Convening to engage in meaningful conversations that spark sustainable collaborations to steer system-level changes in the Higher-Ed industry with regards to employability and entrepreneurship outcomes. The two-day event also provided a platform for attendees to learn more about the work of The Education Collaborative to transform over 1.1 million students into ethical, entrepreneurial leaders by 2030.

The theme of the Convening was "Accelerating Entrepreneurship and Graduate Employability for Regional Development."

The Convening featured sessions on two of four focal areas for The Education Collaborative: Entrepreneurship and Employability. The Entrepreneurship session focused on how higher education stakeholders can build and sustain institutional and infrastructure support systems that encourage students with entrepreneurial skills to think creatively and entrepreneurially in order to solve problems.

The Employability session, on the other hand, focused on promoting the use of Systems Change Program, Employability (SCPE) for effective employability outcomes across member institutions and other EA Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The session also provided an opportunity to share employability and career models and outcomes of employability initiatives ongoing among The Education Collaborative HEIs in the region.

Participants also had the opportunity to participate in panel discussions, roundtable discussions, and a round-robin session, where they learned new ideas to apply in their institutions.

The Convening took place on October 10th and 11th, 2022 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda and was hosted by Kepler College, a long-time member of The Education Collaborative network.



# 2022 EA Hub Convening in Numbers

76

Attendees  
participated  
in-person.

06

**Countries represented:**  
Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda,  
Tanzania, Ghana & Canada

24

Higher Ed  
Institutions

30

Speakers, moderators,  
facilitators and panelists led  
thirteen (13) main sessions;

03

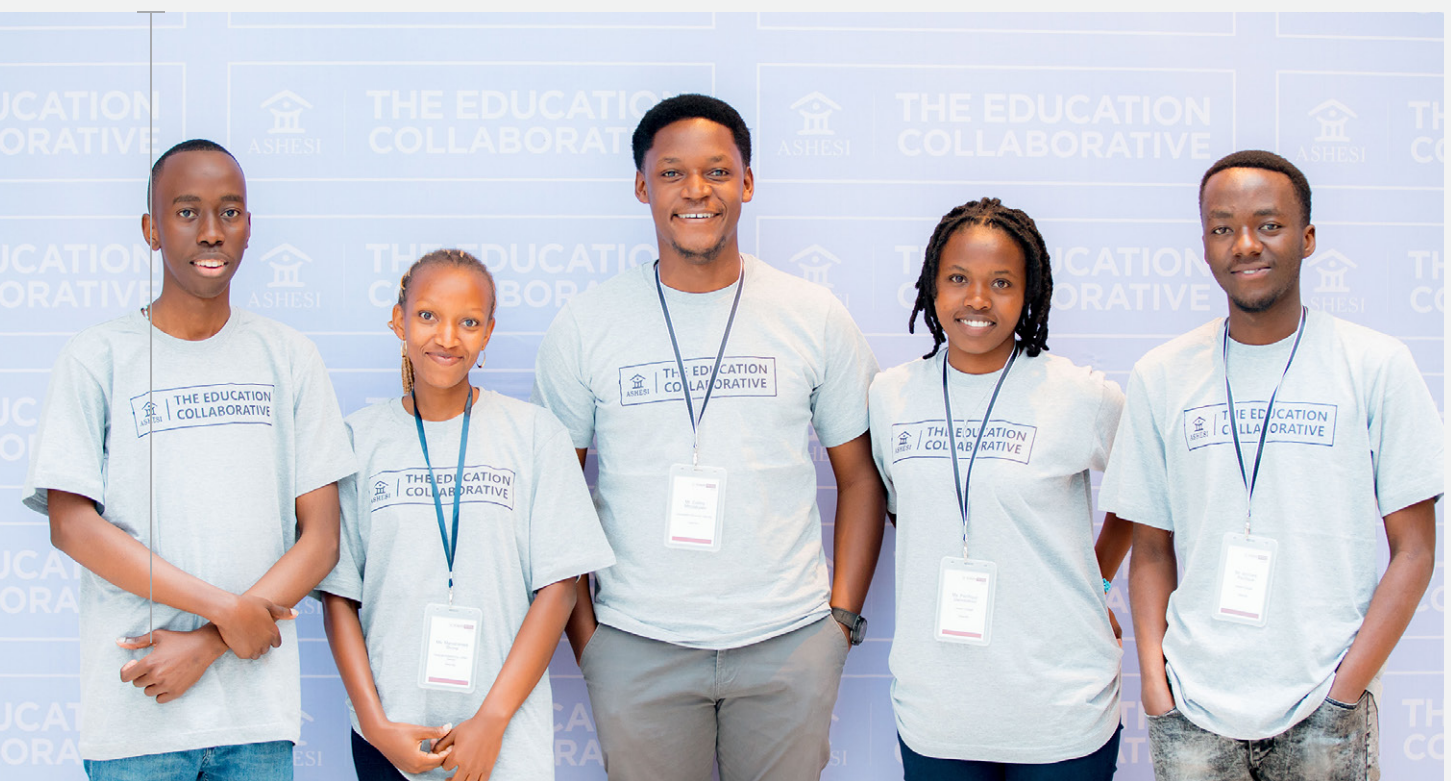
Higher Ed  
Regulators

10

Non-Higher Ed  
Institutions

05

Student  
volunteers





# Highlights from Addresses and Panel Discussions



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### Hon. Prof. Manasseh Nshuti

Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Charge of the East African Community, Rwanda

Prof. Manasseh Nshuti highlighted the differences between academia and the real world and pointed out that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are not producing for the market. He called for a self-assessment by HEIs to determine if they are fit for purpose and if they are producing graduates that meet the needs of the market. Prof. Manasseh also emphasized the need for HEIs to reskill in order to adequately equip students for the current market. He called for closer collaboration between policy makers and academia to address the gaps in research and education in Africa.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

# Pathways to Impact, Role of Regulators in Promoting Graduate Employability to meet Labour Needs

It was noted that different universities in the region apply different levels of quality assurance, so coordination is needed to guide their operations. It is important for discussions to be held among universities, regulators, and industry to agree on a definition of employability. Regulators need to be involved in developing frameworks and policies for employability and interoperability.

The regulator should ensure the employability of graduates by setting clear policies, regulations, and guidelines, and creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning. All stakeholders, including employers, should be involved in developing comprehensive curricula that address skill gaps. Programs offered by universities should follow national frameworks and be regularly regulated and updated.

The market is changing rapidly, so graduates need to be dynamic, adaptable, and able to continue learning even after graduation. Universities have a responsibility to support graduates in becoming adaptable to the industry. Incorporating a global perspective can help mitigate the challenge of producing unemployable graduates.

[Watch the full session here:](#)





## PANEL DISCUSSION

# Entrepreneurship, Venture Funding, and Job Creation: Practical Examples from East Africa

This panel explored the challenges that the African continent faces and the need for entrepreneurship solutions to address them. Integrity and trust are major concerns for investors, while talent and leadership are also significant challenges. The discussion highlighted the need for informed deployment of people and intentional training in order to improve performance.

The panelist argued that Africa must compete on a global level to develop its talent and prevent a brain drain. Innovative solutions, such as an online platform for medical care, have been implemented in East Africa, but there is a lack of support for young innovators to bring their products to market. A key takeaway from the panel was that the future of entrepreneurship in Africa will be influenced by emerging trends such as technology and sustainability.

[Watch the full session here:](#)



## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

# Approaches for Boosting Collaborative Relationships in the Higher-Ed Sector in East Africa [Industry-HEIs; Regulators-HEIs & HEIs-HEIs]

Higher education institutions (HEIs) can stay relevant and improve student outcomes by engaging in partnerships and addressing literacy issues. These institutions can also launch research centers where students can receive funding for innovative ideas. Additionally, working closely with the government can help HEIs connect with the right institutions and ensure that regulators view them as partners rather than rivals.

Engaging with stakeholders and integrating industry qualifications into courses can also help prepare students for the industry. However, the changing dynamics of higher education pose a major challenge, requiring HEIs to come up with innovative ways to collaborate with the industry and improve their capacity to initiate and manage partnerships.

*[Watch the full session here:](#)*





## OPEN DISCUSSION

### EA Hub Strategic Plan Highlights

Here are the main highlights of the open discussion on the EA Hub strategic plan. The Education Collaborative is operationalized through regional hubs, with East Africa being the first hub. The EA hub seeks to achieve three key goals: growing membership and activities, strengthening and scaling up efforts to produce employable graduates, and enhancing capacities of higher education institutions (HEIs).

When developing the strategic plan, the goal was to get all member institutions to commit to driving the agenda of the Education Collaborative. The Education Collaborative seeks to make a difference in the region by identifying exemplar institutions, strengthening faculty capacity, and promoting partnerships. It is free for HEIs to join the Education Collaborative, but they must demonstrate a commitment to improving their systems.

By joining the consortium, HEIs are committing to share their strengths, learn and develop in areas they need to improve, and capture lessons learned for others to learn from. Members of the Education Collaborative network have access to a virtual resource hub and can undertake programs such as Giving Voice to Values – Africa – that promotes ethical leadership.

**[Watch the full session here:](#)**



## STUDENT PANEL DISCUSSION

### Student Reflections on Universities' Contributions to the Employability

The students highlighted the importance of activities outside of class, such as clubs and organizations, in character building and personal development. They also emphasized the benefits of a blended learning approach that integrates foundational and practical courses. Additionally, the students discussed the value of career support and opportunities for practical experience, such as internships, in enhancing employability.

[Watch the full session here:](#)

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## CLOSING ADDRESS

### Dr. Patrick Awuah

Founder and President, Ashesi University Ghana

In his closing address Dr. Awuah highlighted the need to implement recommendations from the convening, the power of collaboration and the positive impact that Education Collaborative has had on over 149,000 students within its network. He further implored the participants the value of trust, deep commitment and ethical behavior in garnering resources, as well as the importance of engaging with alumni and empowering students to be entrepreneurs.

Additionally, he discussed the career services department as a platform for empowering students to be successful in their future careers, rather than just finding them jobs. He concluded by calling on all institutions to continue working towards the common goal of improving education and making a positive impact on students and society.

[Learn more about the discussions in our proceedings report](#)

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# Notable Comments from Participants



“*Though the higher learning institutions are producers of knowledge, they are not producing for the market. There is urgent need to address the mismatch between what is being produced and what the market needs...they need to conduct a self-assessment and check if they are fit for purpose as the market is indicating otherwise*

**Prof. Manasseh Nshuti**  
Minister of State- Rwanda



“*When we teach our students, we have only done half the job, the rest of the job is to ensure that what we taught gets them employed*

**Dr. Julia Kigozi Senior**  
Lecturer Makerere University



“*Thinking about change is not enough...getting convinced of the need to change and taking the step to introduce change is commendable*

**Prof. Bailey Yeshiti**  
Vice Chancellor Kepler College

# Notable Comments from Participants



“Young people need to be nurtured to grow in the market. The HEIs should closely work with the students to help them hone their ideas; the capital institutions should explore options to get them into the next level of equity investment. We need to create 12 million jobs a year in Africa which will only come by ensuring that ventures are funded, get more capital and consequently create more employment.

**Ms. Lydia Koros**  
Co-Founder & Managing Partner  
Progression Capital Africa



“[The East Africa Regional Hub] It's going to be a quantum leap for the region and ...it will inspire a lot of hope... and I am optimistic we shall move with the speed needed to create the opportunities for the young people

**Ms. Lizzie Chongoti**  
EA Hub Regional Director



“Financial resources move toward deep commitment and trust...Social trust is the most important capital an organization can have and comes from ethical behavior, integrity and pursuit of excellence

**Dr. Partrick Awuah**  
President Ashesi University



# Convening Planning Team

The core planning team had oversight of the entire Convening organization. The team comprised The Education Collaborative staff and institutional partners through the Technical and Strategic Committees to help in conceptualizing and organizing the Convening program, resource persons, venue etc.

Below is the composition of the planning team.

## EAST AFRICA HUB STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

**Prof. Samuel Gudu** - Rongo University, Kenya/Chair, Strategic Committee

**Prof. Baylie Yeshita** - Kepler College, Rwanda

**Mr. David Mutabanura** - Cavendish University, Kenya

**Dr. Olive Sabiti** - Cavendish University, Kenya

**Christine Osae** - Davis College, Rwanda

**Dr. Vincent Ogutu** - Strathmore University, Kenya

**Prof. John Mugisha** - Cavendish University, Kenya

**Prof. Daniel Mugendi** - University of Embu, Kenya

**Prof. Robert Gateru** - Riara University, Kenya

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## EAST AFRICA HUB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Eric Saulo** - Strathmore University, Kenya/Chair, Technical Committee

**Bernard Ochan** - Cavendish University, Uganda

**Dr. George Mugabe** - Kepler College, Rwanda

**Stephen Oloo Ajwang** - Rongo University, Kenya

**Dr. Bonn Jonyo** - United States International University (USIU), Kenya

**Nicholas Mwaura** - Riara University, Kenya

**Dr. Lillian Omoke** - University of Embu, Kenya

## THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE TEAM

**Rose A. Dodd** – Executive Director of Education Collaborative

**Lizzie Chongoti** - East Africa Regional Hub Director

**George Ampratwum** - Program Director

**Joleen Sraha Boateng** - Senior Communications Coordinator

**Vanessa Sam** - Operations and Member Institutions Coordinator

**Adobea Lydia Dampare Addo** - Digital Communications Officer

**Rita Abla Dugbenu** - West Africa Hub Coordinator

**Grace Amponsah** - Program Coordinator

**Fredrick Rotich** - East Africa Communications & Administrative Coordinator

# EA Convening Resources

Click on the link below to watch the highlights of the EA convening and browse through our photo gallery.

[Video highlight of the Convening](#)

[Photo Gallery of East Africa Convening by The Education Collaborative \(pixieset.com\)](#)





## **THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

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