

Ten Ways Microsoft has Impacted Ashesi



Patrick Awuah, Founder & President of Ashesi University, got his professional start as a Microsoft Program Manager in the early 90's. He left Microsoft to return home to Ghana and start Ashesi University to educate a new generation of ethical leaders and innovative thinkers with the skills and courage they needed to transform their continent.

Current and former Microsoft employees saw Ashesi's potential and invested their time and money to build Ashesi from the ground up. Our deepest thanks go to the Microsoft employees and alumni who have given so much of their time and resources to create a university whose audacious goal is to spark a renaissance in Africa.

1. Visionary leadership

At every Ashesi board meeting Microsoft employees and alumni have played a key role.

2. Financial support

Over 125 Microsoft employees and alumni have contributed nearly \$8m to establish and grow Ashesi since its launch in 2002.

3. Inspiration

Ashesi Founder and President Patrick Awuah was deeply impacted by Microsoft's culture of smart people working together to tackle hard problems. Those norms can now be seen in every Ashesi classroom.

4. Can-do attitude

Throughout the Ashesi curriculum, students are expected to identify local problems and to create innovative solutions to solve them — skills honed at Microsoft.

5. Curriculum advising

We received critical support on our Computer Science Curriculum Advisory Board from Microsoft alumni.

6. Strategic advice and counsel

Beyond Trustees, Microsoft donors have played a crucial role as advisors — asking the hard questions at every stage of Ashesi's development.

7. Honoring Ashesi's accomplishments

The Microsoft Alumni Foundation awarded Patrick Awuah the 2009 Integral Fellows Award.

8. Microsoft global network

The MSAF helped Ashesi connect with the tremendous network of Microsoft alumni around the world doing incredible work.

9. Corporate support

Microsoft's matching gifts have totaled more than \$500,000.

10. Thinking big

Patrick saw Microsoft win via game-changing, long-term strategies. To tackle Africa's culture of corruption and apathy, he developed a similar leveraged approach — educating ethical, innovative leaders to create change.

Ashesi University in Ghana · Ethical Leadership and Innovative Thinking for a New Africa

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