



ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE AT ASHESI UNIVERSITY

Over the past eighteen years, Ashesi has established a reputation as a leader in undergraduate education in Africa, pioneering a combination of a rigorous liberal arts core with practical majors in Business Administration, Computer Science, Management Information Systems, and Engineering. Our mission is to educate a new generation of ethical and entrepreneurial leaders in Africa; to cultivate within our students the critical thinking skills, concern for others, and courage it will take to transform their continent.

After testing, building, and solidifying our model, Ashesi is now sharing our learnings on a larger scale. The Education Collaborative at Ashesi brings together a consortium of institutions committed to driving high-impact education innovations as the catalyst for Africa's transformation. Participants include public and private colleges and universities across Africa as well as a select group of secondary level institutions in Ghana.

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Launched in 2017, the Collaborative is grounded in the tenets of an Ashesi education: Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Ethics, and Entrepreneurship. Alongside an annual gathering in Ghana, the Education Collaborative includes:

- Conferences and workshops for university stakeholders
- Targeted mentorship and consulting programs
- A high school engagement program, "Ashesi Before Ashesi"
- Year-round support via online engagement and in-person resources

Each Collaborative participant has the potential to impact multitudes of colleagues and students. In eighteen years of operation, just over 1,500 students have graduated from Ashesi University. Utilizing Ashesi's learnings thus far, the Education Collaborative has the potential to impact over 1 million students across Africa.

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Conferences and Workshops Drive Innovation

Through annual conferences and workshops for university stakeholders, Ashesi seeks to increase access to quality education at scale for millions of Africans by broadening the reach of Ashesi's impact and engaging other exemplars to drive education innovation forward. Ashesi also offers targeted engagement for various university stakeholders, including executives, faculty, and administrators, providing a greater chance for institution-wide change.

Executive Conference

Once a year
1.5 to 2 days

Location
Ashesi University

Target
University executive teams

Goals
Encourage collaboration
Champion innovation on campuses

1-Day Symposium

Six times per year
1 day

Location
Hosted by mentee institutions

Target
Higher education stakeholders

Goals
Maintain relevance and visibility
Impact policy
Engage mentee institutions as continuous "trainers"

Faculty/Admin Workshop

Once a year
3 to 4 days

Location
Ashesi University

Target
Administrative and teaching staff

Goals
Engage mentee institutions
Learn from other exemplars
Refresh skills of annual participants
Drive education innovation forward





Developing Exemplars Across Regions in Africa

Through partnerships, mentoring, and consulting, Ashesi seeks to develop exemplars in higher education. Education Collaborative institutions and educators from across Africa are engaging one-on-one with Ashesi faculty and staff to develop customized solutions inspired by the “Ashesi way”. The scope and content of engagements are customized to maximize value for the mentee or partner institution. One partnering institution is The African Development University (ADU), a new university in Niger. Since 2018, ADU representatives have engaged in onsite and remote mentorship with Ashesi faculty and staff, curriculum design and review, student services and counseling department development, and faculty development and training.

Over the next three years, Ashesi is focused on developing the systems to scale our mentorship and consulting services. For the two years thereafter, Ashesi will aim to grow our network of participants.

Widespread High School Engagement Program - Ashesi Before Ashesi

Secondary schools are eager to prepare their students for the future of work. This program will give high school students the opportunity to learn the values and critical thinking skills Ashesi instills in its students. The program will ensure that high school students and staff alike have access to pedagogy, practices, and community support preparing students for future success, be they headed to university or directly into the world of work. To start, Ashesi aims to reach one-third of the high schools in Ghana in the next five years.

Annual Membership

Year round

Access to tools, techniques, visits, student engagement, AIX

Location

Online, at Ashesi, at target high school

Target

Students, teachers, administrators

Goals

To develop a consortium of high schools committed to developing ethical, entrepreneurial leaders pre-university

Plugged-in Engagement

Year round

Scheduled to fit in the high school academic calendar

Location

At target high school

Target

Students, teachers, administrators

Goals

Transform the approach to high school education in Ghana and create an Ashesi-before-Ashesi experience

Teacher Training

Once a year

A 3-day teacher training certificate program

Location

Ashesi University

Target

High school teachers

Goals

Provide teachers with resources, skills, and a network to improve student learning and performance



A Year-Round Collaborative Network

Our long-term goal is to promote continuous engagement between participants in-person and online. In-person, Ashesi will expand its year-round, in-person opportunities for support, networking, training, and collaboration. Through an online platform, Ashesi plans to share a dynamic repository of innovations in teaching, learning, and institutional management between Ashesi and collaborating institutions.

Tactics to Reach Network Goals

In-person

1. Follow-up support to answer questions, provide guidance, and assist in the implementation of new skills
2. Networking opportunities across the continent — plugging in mentee institutions
3. Training and support post-workshops
4. Regional office/centers (West, East, Central, and Southern Africa) that attendees and mentees can contact for assistance

Online

1. Forums to post and answer questions
2. A Learning Management System (LMS) to share content on best practices
3. Mechanism to post, and access, content from network participants
4. Weekly best practice seminars
5. Different levels of access to read/post/submit papers

NEXT STEPS

Ashesi seeks advisors, partners, and donors who are interested in improving higher education in Africa. The Education Collaborative is a substantial vehicle to scale Ashesi's impact and reach throughout Africa. Your contribution supports the Education Collaborative's operations and growth, thereby helping us spread our impact exponentially across Africa.

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

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