

PATRICK AWUAH

Founder and President
Ashesi University, Ghana



Patrick Awuah is the Founder and President of Ashesi University, a private, not-for-profit institution that is now recognized as one of the finest universities in Africa. Under Patrick's leadership, Ashesi has developed a curriculum grounded in a multidisciplinary core that teaches critical thinking, design thinking, entrepreneurship, ethics and leadership. It is recognized for its excellent graduate placement: nearly 100% of Ashesi's graduates receive job offers, start businesses, or enter graduate school within six months of graduation. Ashesi's graduates are considered some of the most career-ready in Africa and are ranked among the best educated in the world.

Patrick's vision and leadership have been recognized within Ghana and abroad. He is a MacArthur Fellow, a winner of the McNulty Prize, and a member of the Order of the Volta — one of Ghana's highest awards, given to individuals who exemplify the ideal of service to the country. In 2015, Patrick was named one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune. In 2017, he was awarded the WISE Prize for Education, an honor which recognizes individuals or teams for an outstanding, world-class contribution to education.

He is a Fellow of the Africa Leadership Initiative of the Aspen Global Leadership Network; a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; and a member of the Tau Beta Pi honor society for excellence in engineering. He holds honorary doctorates from Babson College, Swarthmore College, and the University of Waterloo.

Patrick holds bachelor's degrees in Engineering and Economics from Swarthmore College and an MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. Before founding Ashesi, Patrick worked as a Program Manager for Microsoft where, among other things, he spearheaded the development of dial-up internetworking technologies and gained a reputation for bringing difficult projects to completion.

Patrick gave up his software career to return to Ghana in 1997. In 2012, the university he founded was ranked as one of the top ten Most Respected Companies in Ghana, and was the first educational institution to win the award. In the same survey, Patrick Awuah was named the 4th Most Respected CEO in Ghana. Patrick's vision is an African renaissance driven by a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders.



Africa will be transformed under the leadership of bright young Africans who are educated in Africa, taught to think critically, to question, to solve problems, and above all, to care.

I founded Ashesi to be a spark of a revitalized Africa. Ashesi is a catalyst for new enterprises and new solutions, and offers a new model for other universities in Africa."

Patrick Awuah



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

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