



# Reimagining African Engagement

CII Summer Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 10.45-11.30am





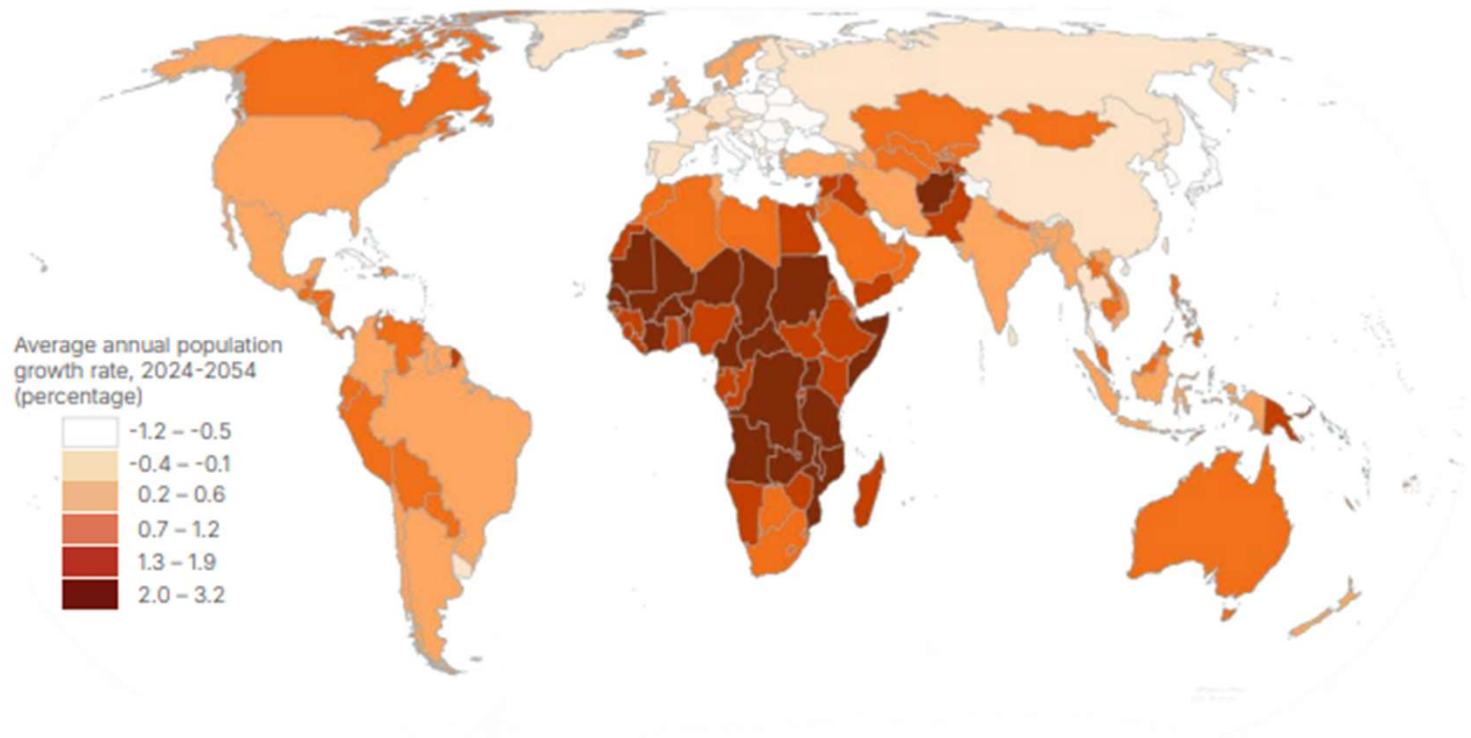
# Presenters

---

- Bernard A. Burrola, Vice President, Office of International, Community, and Economic Engagement, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Session Chair
- Assata Zerai, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion, Professor of Sociology, University of New Mexico; Liaison to CII from CDEI, APLU
- Gretchen Neisler, Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of the Center for Global Engagement, University of Tennessee
- Samba Dieng, Executive Director of the Office of Global Engagement, Louisiana State University

# Africa Population Growth

## Population growth rate, 2024-2054



Source: Adapted from World Population Prospects 2022, UNDESA Population Division



# Africa's Share of Total Global Population

---



26%

By 2050

38%

By 2100

# Africa's Rise

---



- 100,000 more PhDs needed by 2032<sup>1</sup>
- 81,000 Africans studied in China in 2018<sup>2</sup>
- Growing U.S. graduate enrollment from Africa<sup>3</sup>
  - 10% of all graduate applications from sub-Saharan Africa
  - 83% increase in grad applications between 2021 & 2022
  - 13% increase in enrolled graduate students  
(compared with 11% decline from China & 22% increase from India)
  - In Fall 2022, 9% of all Masters and 12% of all Doctoral students enrolled are from sub-Saharan Africa

## Sources:

1. World Bank
2. Chinese Ministry of Education
3. Council on Graduate Schools

# Feminist Decoloniality as Care: Lessons from a multi-university collaboration in South Africa & USA





**FEMDAC**  
(Feminist  
Decoloniality  
as Care)

is a  
**liberatory  
project**



- **Marries the desire to transform higher education with:**
- **Recognition that a balance as activists, academics, & physically & mentally centered women**
- **Intentional effort & participation in communities of practice to sustain our decoloniality**

# FEMDAC Leaders and Participants:

Grey font: participant institutions only; Black font: institutions that host both FEMDAC leadership and participants

FEMDAC UNIVERSITIES & FACULTY TITLES	
<b>South Africa</b> (Participants & staff: MA, PhD candidates, PhD, instructors; Leaders: lecturers, & full & endowed professors)	<b>United States</b> (Participants & staff: MA, PhD candidates, assistant & associate professors; Leaders: full professors)
University of KwaZulu Natal – UKZN (2 campuses)	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign - UIUC
Durban University of Technology - DUT	University of New Mexico - UNM
Stellenbosch University - SU	University of Wisconsin, Twin Cities - UWISC
University of Witwatersrand - Wits	Ohio University
University of Cape Town – UCT	
Cape Peninsula University of Technology - CPUT	

# Opportunities and Challenges

## Opportunities presented by FEMDAC CoP:

- Mentoring early career faculty in departments in which they are the only or one of very few Black women faculty
- Mutual support offered
- Joint research endeavors
- Recognition and celebration of academic accomplishments
- Note: CoP = community of practice

## Challenges and how they were addressed:

- After early 2020 planning, project was immediately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic
- Pivoted to online gatherings
- Monthly gatherings were sustained throughout the pandemic
- Shared strategies to survive as academics during the pandemic
- Created authentic connections

## Lessons Learned: Agentic Responses Despite Institutional Harms



1. Truth-telling about the impact of neoliberal institutions on the daily lives of Black women academics
2. Locating the source of harms not solely in the individual behaviors of bad actors but in system-wide structural racism and sexism
3. Creating opportunities for women to see the similarities in their experiences transnationally and to recognize ways in which neoliberal institutional structures marginalize them
4. Mutual support, a team mentoring approach, and producing the next generation of decolonial Black scholars
5. Daring to dream of a new future and forming the building blocks to create it



# How an R1 SEC University Connects to a Continent

Gretchen Neisler  
[gneisler@utk.edu](mailto:gneisler@utk.edu)

# Speaking everyone's language

---

## **Strengthening workforce development through global engagement.**

The University of Tennessee has long been committed to fostering global citizenship among its students and promoting workforce development initiatives that benefit not only the state but also the nation and beyond. Recognizing the transformative power of international experiences, the program engages community leaders from Knoxville, focusing on workforce development in collaboration with partners in Rwanda, East Africa.



# Objectives

---

- Emphasize the importance of global education at the post-secondary level through hands on experiences for community leaders
- Showcase tangible benefits of global citizenship and international engagement – focus on employability skills
- Highlight UT's commitment to global engagement and demonstrate the value of its research and partnerships to the state of Tennessee
- Foster collaboration and breakdown silos among community leaders





## Unanticipated outcomes

---

- Participant gifts supporting student and faculty scholarship
- A new path to enhance access and engagement for higher education
- Growth and expansion of U.S. based business with Rwanda
- Others?

# Impact of our footprint



95% of the genius in the world lives outside of the U.S.

Increase the impact by collaboration among us

Industry partners play a vital role – don't forget to include them

Intentionally curate the experience with your African partners and hand select the participants

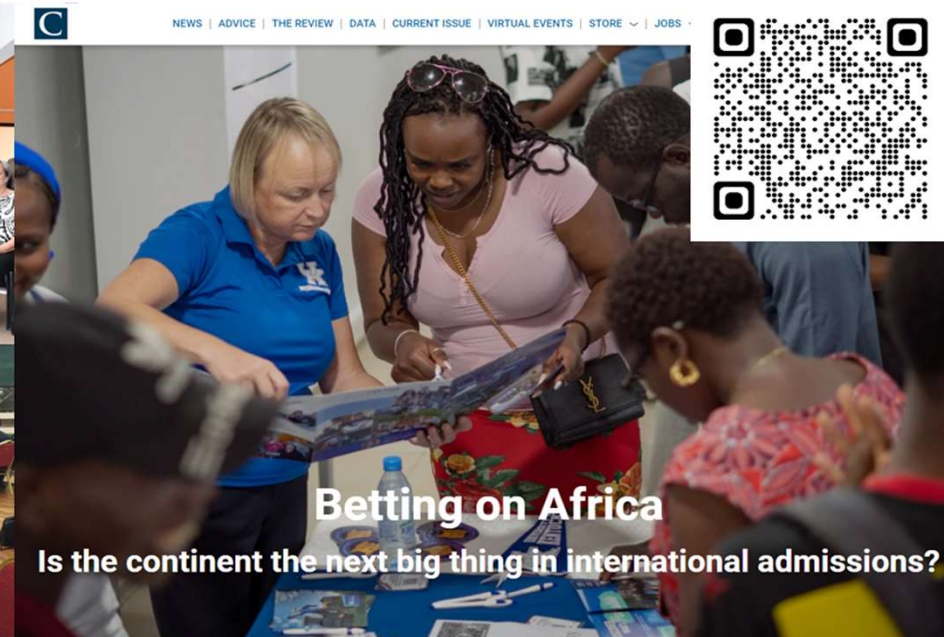
Engagement does not end when the plane touches down.



# Recent LSU Outcomes

**Samba Dieng**  
[sdieng1@lsu.edu](mailto:sdieng1@lsu.edu)

# SIO Africa Engagement



# SIO Africa Engagement

---



## Why?

- To reimagine how US higher education engages with Sub-Saharan Africa
- To open doors to collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with African institutions
- For the exchange of ideas, research, student mobility/study abroad programing

## Who?

- 12-15 institutions participating in the fall 2024

## Impact?

- Attracting African students to US higher education
- Creating study abroad and global learning programs in Africa
- Building collaborations and partnerships with African universities

# PSA Scholars Global Learning Program



# PSA Scholars Global Learning Program

---



## Who?

- PSA established in 2018
- Identifies and supports underrepresented, low-income students to reach their full scholastic potential

## Partners?

- Enrollment Management, LSU Foundation

## What?

- Global experience in West Africa over Spring Break
- Exposed currently enrolled LSU students to the world beyond Louisiana
- Developed as a direct result of being a 2022 recipient of the IIE passport grant

# LSU Football in Senegal

Giving Back  
Historical  
Outside Comfort Zone  
Purposeful Service  
Bonding  
Unique  
Different Viewpoint  
Heart Warming  
Life-Changing  
Eye-Opening  
Authentic  
Inspiring  
Personal Growth  
Humbling  
Long-Term Impact



# LSU Football in Senegal

---



## Who?

- LSU Football Student-Athletes

## Partners?

- Center for Community Engagement, Learning & Leadership (CCELL)
- LSU Athletics

## What?

- Week-long Service-Learning Summer Study Abroad Program
- Credit-bearing course component

# Global Ambassadors Program in Ghana



# Global Ambassadors Program in Ghana

---



## **Who?**

- 12 Undergraduate students selected by college deans

## **Partners?**

- Collaborative effort with academic colleges and the Provost
- \$5,000 contribution per college dean

## **What?**

- 2024 Spring Break in Ghana
- Investment in future leaders
- Hone their global competency skills with an international experience
- Serve as LSU global ambassadors for their peers upon returning

# Mandela Washington Fellowship



# Mandela Washington Fellowship

---



- State Department initiative, run by IREX
- Develop and execute 6-week executive-style institute for 25 young African professionals
- Applied to be a Leadership in Civic Engagement host institution for Summer 2024

# International Internships



# International Internships

---



- Develop extensive summer internship opportunities on continent for students
- Provide funding to lower financial burden for participating students
- Opportunity to gain valuable global work experience and build up global competency
- Funded through revenue-generating programs and LSU Foundation

# Dak'Art Biennale



# Dak'Art Biennale

---



- Collaboration with College of Art & Design and Senegalese government
- Biennale de Dakar one of the largest art exhibitions in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Takes place every two years in Senegal
- Opportunity to host small-scale version in Baton Rouge during Biennale's off-year
- Potential conference to draw in other institutions across U.S.