



ALLIANCE *for* AFRICAN
PARTNERSHIP

AAP CONNECT

This issue of AAP CONNECT focuses on one of Alliance for African Partnership's (AAP) seven priority areas, **Education**. This priority area is essential to transforming lives and livelihoods in Africa and beyond. Education empowers individuals with critical thinking skills, relevant knowledge, and the capacity to make informed decisions that shape their lives and communities. AAP supports education at all levels, from early childhood to higher education, through initiatives that enhance teaching quality, promote inclusive and accessible learning, and integrate local contexts and indigenous knowledge. In this issue, we spotlight projects that reflect this commitment: a transformative effort to reform graduate education with the goal of producing 100,000 PhDs in the next decade, the use of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) to connect classrooms across borders and foster global engagement, and a PIRA-supported initiative advancing early childhood education and play-based learning in Tanzania.



100,000 PhDs in 10 Years? Africa Needs More Than Numbers - We Need a Doctoral Revolution



by Abraham Mamela

Across Africa, the demand for knowledge has never been greater. From climate change to health systems, digital transformation to food security, the continent faces a storm of complex, intersecting challenges. Yet paradoxically, while the urgency for African-led solutions intensifies, our universities struggle to produce the kind of advanced, homegrown expertise needed to drive sustainable development.

[Read More](#)

Connect Spotlight



[The Business of Water: A COIL Project By AAP](#) *by Zoje Aig-Imoukhuede*

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is a method of education which fosters intercultural learning and development through shared values, presented perspectives, and mutual understanding despite geographical and cultural barriers. It connects students and professors in different countries for collaborative projects and discussions carried out virtually as part of their coursework.

[Read More](#)



[Co-Creating Feasible and Sustainable Play-based Learning: A 2024 PIRA Award Winning Initiative](#) *by Dr Amy Jamison*

Every year, Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) runs an initiative known as the Partnerships for Innovative Research in Africa (PIRA). It is an opportunity for researchers to earn the funding needed to carry out collaborative, supportive, and multidirectional projects aimed at improving Africa. The research ideas put forward by each PIRA awardee have shown the potential to change the future of Africa for the better.

[Read more](#)

Focus on The Consortium



Spartan science protects the food on your table

For 170 years, Michigan State University has led innovations in agriculture—from farm fields to family tables. As climate change, labor shortages, and rising costs threaten global food systems, over 100 MSU researchers are working with farmers and policymakers to create sustainable, equitable solutions. Backed by \$27M in annual federal research funding, Spartan Science is securing access to healthy, affordable food in Michigan and beyond.

[Read more](#)



Prof Norris Calls for Stronger Collaborations that Bridge the Gap Between Research and Policy

The University of Botswana reaffirmed its commitment to science communication as a driver of research impact and sustainable development during the AAP Consortium Meeting (June 8-11, 2025, Lilongwe). Vice Chancellor Prof. David Norris, speaking on a high-level panel, emphasized the importance of translating research into actionable insights to inform policy, spark innovation, and address challenges like climate change and food insecurity.

[Read more](#)



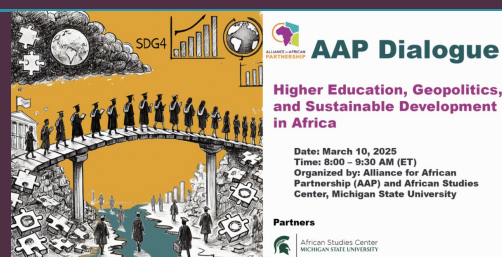
6,300 Trees Planted on Egerton University Tree Planting Day

Egerton University brought together staff, students, and the local community to plant 6,300 trees in a single day as part of Kenya's national reforestation drive. More than just an event, the initiative reflects the university's commitment to environmental stewardship and national sustainability efforts.

Story By Kurian Mus

[Read more](#)

AAP Programs



AAP hosts Dialogue on Higher Education, Geopolitics, and Sustainable Development in Africa

by Zoje Aig-Imoukhuede



Celebrating a Legacy of Vision, Dedication, and Continental Impact

by Baboki Gaolaolwe-Major

In March 2024, AAP hosted a dialogue on “Higher Education, Geopolitics, and Sustainable Development in Africa,” highlighting the vital role of universities in advancing equitable education and sustainable development. Drawing on UN SDG 4, the discussion highlighted how higher education empowers young people to address global challenges.

[Watch Here](#)

We take this opportunity to honor one of our most visionary leaders, Professor Richard Mkandawire, who retires after years of exceptional service as the Director of the AAP Africa Office, as AAP continues to grow in strength and purpose. The experience Prof. Mkandawire has had with AAP has been nothing short of revolutionary. Richard was a well-known development expert and supporter of soil health who approached his work with insight, moral character, and endless enthusiasm.

[Read more](#)



Join AAP Bridge now to find and share opportunities, potential collaborators, and connect and broaden your network.

Upcoming Events

September
2025

19

Save the Date: Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Symposium & Celebration
[RSVP](#)

September
2025

25-26

Aging & Social Change: Fifteenth Interdisciplinary Conference
[Register Here](#)



Alliance for African Partnership | 202 International Center 427 N. Shaw Lane | East Lansing, MI 48824 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)