



# ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

*This newsletter is a monthly publication designed to keep readers abreast of events and activities of the Alliance for African Partnership, a new initiative at Michigan State University that promotes innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions.*

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## Invitation for Proposals

The AAP is inviting proposals for its initial partnership activities in 2017. As a university-wide initiative, AAP invites proposals from diverse disciplinary perspectives that address the priority areas of agri-food systems; water, energy and the environment; youth employment; education; cultural heritage development; and health and nutrition.

Successful proposals will be submitted by teams that include both MSU faculty and partners from African organizations and should be designed to lay the foundation for longer duration and sustainable partnerships between MSU and African partners. Grants awarded will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 for projects to be carried out over an 18-month time frame.

**Proposals must be submitted by November 21, 2016, for consideration.**

[View the Call for Proposals](#)

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## AAP Advisory Board holds inaugural meeting in Nairobi

We are pleased to announce the formation of the AAP Advisory Board and welcome our first members:

- **Titus Awokuse**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and and Resource Economics, Michigan State University
- **Thelma Awori**, Chair Emeritis, Founding Chair and President, Sirleaf Market Women's Fund
- **Candace Keller**, Associate Professor of African Art and Culture, Michigan State University
- **Richard Mkandawire**, Vice President, African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership
- **Penina Mlama**, Professor in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and Julius Nyerere Chair in Pan-African Studies, University of Dar es Salaam
- **Moses Osiru**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
- **Leonard Wantchekon**, Professor of Politics, International Affairs and Economics, Princeton University; Founder, Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy and the African Institute of Economics, Benin

The AAP convened its first Advisory Board meeting on September 5 in Nairobi, Kenya, where Richard Mkandawire was elected as inaugural chairperson of the board. The board will meet quarterly and will provide guidance to AAP management on proposed activities and programs, and will help facilitate potential partnerships and donor support. Board members will serve 1 to 2 year rotating terms.



*The AAP Advisory Board meets in-person and virtually to discuss and direct the future of the Alliance for African Partnership.*

## **MSU alumni and friends meet in Kenya**

The MSU African Studies Center and the Alliance for African Partnership hosted our first reunion event for Kenyan alumni and friends of MSU on August 20 in Nairobi, with an evening reception at the Jacaranda hotel in Westlands. The event attracted Spartan alumni who graduated from MSU as early as 1996 to as recently as 2015.

Several alumni demonstrated their Spartan spirit by driving between seven to 10 hours to attend the event, including Dr. Fred Amimo (2006), who drove eight hours and had the pleasure of reuniting with his former undergraduate student, Dr. Damaris Choti, a 2013 MSU alumna.

The event helped to foster new relationships and formulate ideas for future engagements and activities with our Kenyan alumni and friends. "I am humbled to say that it was a great honor to have the event hosted in Kenya," said Timothy Ikime, a former MasterCard Foundation Scholar and 2015 graduate. "I enjoyed meeting other MSU alumni and the networks we created were worth it, for they give us a room for collaboration and doing great things now and in the future."



*Kenyan alumni and friends of MSU at the reception.*

## **AAP represented at African Green Revolution Forum**

The Alliance for African Partnership held a successful networking reception for colleagues attending the African Green Revolution Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday, September 5. More than 40 people representing over 20 organizations attended.

Several MSU faculty and African partners associated with the AAP actively engaged in the wider AGRF

event, September 5-9, 2016, at the UN Complex in Nairobi. Most notably, MSU researchers, including AAP co-director Thom Jayne, and African partners contributed to the [2016 African Annual Status Report](#) that was launched at the event's opening ceremony on September 6.

Additionally, Amy Jamison presented on the AAP and the role of partnership in capacity building at a side event on human and institutional capacity building organized by AGRA's Rufaro Madakadze.



## Upcoming Events

### Desmond Tutu Legacy Foundation International Peace Lecture Events

The [MSU African Studies Center](#) and the Alliance for African Partnership will host an event on October 6 in Cape Town, South Africa, on the theme '*Ubuntu and Cultural Heritage: Continuing MSU-South African Partnerships.*' [Download event program \(pdf\).](#)

Our learning event is part of a weeklong program organized in cooperation with the [Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation](#) and the MSU Museum, featuring '*Ubuntu: Legacies of Love and Action,*' an exhibit of quilts made by the Women of Color Quilters Network (U.S.) and South African quilt artists. The opening of the exhibition will take place in Cape Town on October 3 to coincide with the [Desmond Tutu Legacy Foundation International Peace Lecture](#) (October 7).



### RUFORUM Biennial Conference

Several AAP-associated faculty and staff will be attending the [RUFORUM Biennial Conference](#) in Cape Town, South Africa, October 17-21.

The theme of the conference is '*Partnerships to unlock the Potential of Agricultural Development in Africa*' and those attending from MSU plan to glean significant insight from this meeting to continue to shape the AAP's approach to partnership.

The AAP, together MSU's Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI), the Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development program (BHEARD), and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) will host a conference side event on Tuesday, October 18, 8:30-10:00am at the Century City Conference Centre (Meeting Room 11). The session is entitled: *Innovating Partnerships: Applying frameworks and models in the real world.*

If you are attending RUFORUM, we encourage you to attend this interactive event. Please RSVP to [aap@isp.msu.edu](mailto:aap@isp.msu.edu).



### AAP Breakfast at Borlaug Dialogue (World Food Prize)

AAP team members and affiliated faculty will participate in the [2016 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium](#) in Des Moines, Iowa, October 12-14.

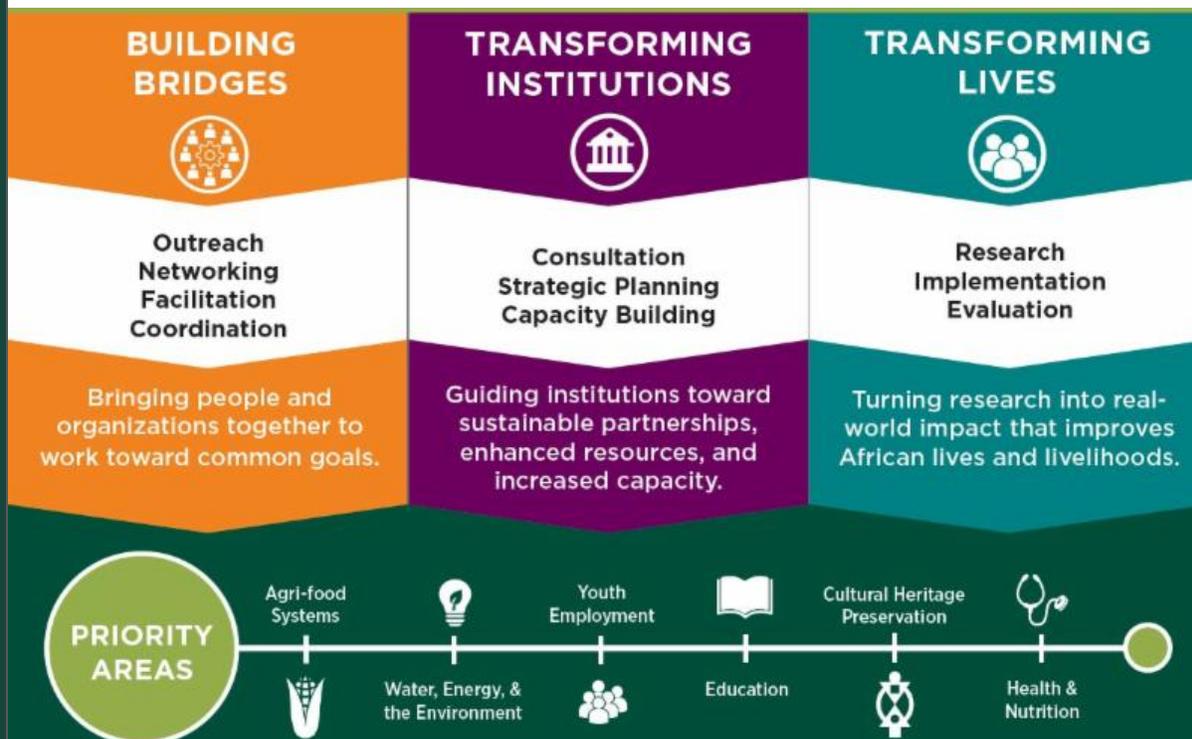
The MSU Alliance for African Partnership will host a welcome breakfast in conjunction with the side event entitled, *Advancing Africa's Food Nutrition and Security through Public-Private Partnerships in Agricultural Science, Technology and Infrastructure Development*. Additionally, International Studies and Programs Dean Dr. Steven Hanson will speak on a panel in the same session about the role of universities and partnerships in promoting development efforts in Africa.

This event will take place Wednesday, October 12, 7:00-10:00 a.m., Downtown Marriott-Dubuque Conference room. We encourage all who will be in Des Moines to attend this session.



## About the AAP

The Alliance for African Partnership is a new Michigan State University initiative to be formally launched in early 2017. The AAP is designed to promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world.



## Get Involved

The Alliance for African Partnership seeks to be inclusive of all in the MSU community who are engaged in or who would like in the future to engage in partnership activities with African research, policy and implementation organization.

For questions or more information on getting involved, [visit the AAP website](#).

## Contact Information

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