



**THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE**  
Educating People | Connecting Worlds

## OVERVIEW

The Africa-America Institute (AAI) is the flagship U.S. organization connecting Africa to America. Since its founding in 1953, over 16,000 Africans have received scholarships and fellowships from the Africa-America Institute. These Africans are now an esteemed network of alumni, many of whom are leaders and influencers across public, private, and governmental sectors in Africa and globally. Included in this network are current heads of state, H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; and H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa. Many of AAI's Alumni have left an indelible imprint including the late 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Mathaai and the late Barack Obama, Sr.

To further our mission of promoting enlightened engagement between Africa and the Americas through education, training and dialogue, AAI now operates under two strategic pillars: **Pathways to Livelihood** and **Africa Illuminated**.

## PATHWAYS TO LIVELIHOOD

Pathways to Livelihood seeks to reimagine higher education by supporting innovations that prepare African students to be globally competitive. As the fourth industrial revolution continues to disrupt traditional career paths, it is imperative students are prepared to compete in an ever-changing world. We have two areas of focus under Pathways: 1) to support the creation of graduate programs at African Universities that have robust support from all stakeholders and that can become globally competitive in 10 years; and 2) to upskill primary and secondary school teachers so they can better prepare students to navigate their pathways to livelihood.

## AFRICA ILLUMINATED

Knowledge about Africa's role in the world and the achievements of Afro-descendants has not been included in the core of most general education curricula. This is as much the case in African countries as it is in other parts of the world. We believe that lack of knowledge about the role of Africa and the achievements of Afro-descendant women and men in human history contributes to the development of inaccurate and destructive narratives that undermine respect for Afro-descendants throughout the world. Africa Illuminated is designed to combat this by working with influential global partners to prepare all young people to see the richness of true global citizenship.

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# PROGRAMS

## EADB-AAI STEM SCHOLARSHIP

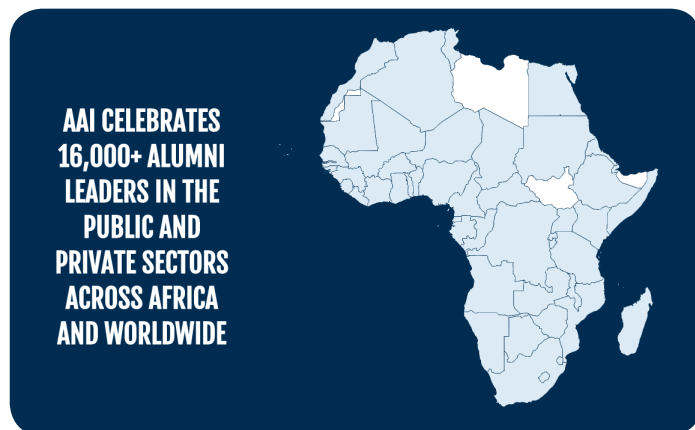


In 2015, the East Africa Development Bank (EADB) and the Africa-America Institute (AAI) announced its partnership to advance S.T.E.M. training to support the development of teachers across East Africa. The yearlong program, administered by Rutgers University in New Jersey, provides teachers and lecturers from EADB member countries—Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda—with a Master's degree in one of the key STEM fields.

## STATE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA CONFERENCE (SOE)

After the launch of the inaugural conference in New York in 2014, the Africa-America Institute has continued to host its annual State of Education in Africa Conference (SOE) in a country on the continent. Past countries SOE have been held include: Nigeria (Lagos), Kenya (Nairobi), and Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan). The conference convenes Heads of State, scholars, policymakers, business professionals, advocates, and university students to explore opportunities for collective strategy development and partnership initiatives to transform higher education in Africa.

## ALUMNI OUTREACH INITIATIVE



The Alumni Outreach Initiative was launched in 2017 as part of our renewed commitment to strengthen relationships with our network of over 16,000 alumni. Through increased communication, AAI plans to showcase the positive impact of our alumni, in an effort to inspire the next generation of African leaders.

## AAI ANNUAL AWARDS GALA



The AAI Annual Award Gala is the most anticipated African-centered event in New York City. Held annually during the United National General Assembly week, the AAI Gala convenes dignitaries—Head of State, Diplomats, domestic and international government officials—philanthropists, business leaders, journalists, scholars, and other prominent figures for a night highlighting African success. Since 1984, the AAI has remained committed to honoring individuals working toward fulfilling part of AAI's mission of promoting enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education, training and dialogue.

## AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC ORIENTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Launched in 2019, the African Diplomatic Orientation & Engagement Program consists of two annual convenings featuring African Ambassadors in a peer-based environment, where they can learn from each other and sectoral experts in order to maximize their impact as international representatives in the United States.

## THE JIM OVIA FOUNDATION LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

Launched in 2018, the Jim Ovia Foundation Leaders Scholarship is AAI's most recent endeavor to educate and retain the talent of Africa's future leaders and scholars. Through partnerships with Ashesi University in Ghana and Covenant University in Nigeria, the Jim Ovia Foundation Leaders Scholarship is awarded to high performing students from underrepresented backgrounds. The scholarship provides them with a tuition-free, world class education needed to globally compete.

## TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Founded in 2007, the Transformational Leadership Program (TLP) is AAI's longest running initiative. Piloted by the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, the TLP provides leadership development opportunities for African nationals working in areas related to social entrepreneurship; participating universities include United States International University Africa (USIU) in Nairobi and Stellenbosch in South Africa.