

# 2014 RONALD H. BROWN

## AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERIES



### Final Summary Report

#### SUMMARY REPORTING FORM

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#### INFORMATION

##### AFRICAN EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Title of Series/meeting African + African American Universities, the Diaspora and Stakeholders + Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) = Formula 4 Success

Date October 2, 2014

Time 2-5 pm

Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center 901 K St. NW Washington, D.C.

Location/Venue

Number of Participants  
60

#### SPEAKERS/PANELISTS

Name, Title, Agency/Organization Representation

1. Barbara A. Simmons, J.D. Inaugural Dean and Associate Professor, William V.S. Tubman University (Liberia)
2. Frederick S. Humphries, Jr. V.P. of Government Affairs Microsoft Corporation
3. Meldon Hollis, Associate Director, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities
4. Bradford C. Grant, Professor, School of Architecture and Design, Howard University
5. Lawrence Wyman, 5<sup>th</sup> year Architecture Student, Howard University
6. IDonuage Akogun, Program Coordinator, Electronic Education Initiative (e-Don)
7. Jaime Pinero, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & State Integrated Pest Management Specialist (IPM), Lincoln University (MO)
8. Edman G.H. Zayzay, President, Association of Liberian Engineers—USA (ALEUSA)
9. \*Faina Linkov, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Ob/Gyn & Epidemiology, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
10. \*Ronald E. LaPorte, Ph.D. Director, Disease Monitoring & Telecommunications Supercourse,

- Central, Professor of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh  
 11.\*Eric Marler, M.D., Consultant  
 12.Matthew Reisman, Director, International Trade, Microsoft Corporation  
 13.\*Louis Onyango Otieno, Director, Africa Initiatives Microsoft Corporation  
 14. Gerald F.B. Cooper, Chair, William V.S. Tubman University Foundation Board E-brary Project  
 15. NkemKumbah, Ph.D., Chair, CFA STEM African Initiative  
 16. Melvin P. Foote, President & CEO CFA

\*Via Skype

## MEETING DESCRIPTION

### Abstract of Meeting:

A series of presentations were made by representatives from the academic, government, private, professional and non-governmental sectors all of which acknowledged the importance of STEM. Some even suggested that STE3A3M replace STEM to mean Science, Technology, Engineering, Ethics, Entrepreneurship, Architecture, Agriculture, Arts, and Mathematics. The Symposium focused on actual projects that either have occurred, currently exist and/or are planned for the future. Following the presentations, small group discussions were held with the audience.

### Objectives of the meeting:

- 1) Bring together representatives of all the stakeholders who contribute to the promotion of STEM among and between African and African American Universities for the purpose of initiating a long-term process designed to "STEMINIZE" i.e. enhance the STEM disciplines at these Universities.
- 2) Form an ad hoc task force to continue discussions begun at Symposium.

### Outcome of the meeting:

A series of meetings were held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. Ms. Sylvie Bello graciously permitted the meetings to be held at the Cameroon American Council Headquarters. In the meetings, persons shared information about their organizations. Queen Ayacodobae made a formal presentation about her organization/projects. Scheduled presentations by others were postponed.

At the last two meetings, participants selected subcommittees for on-going work. The subcommittees (all of which are to have STEM as the focus) and those who volunteered are:

#### African History/African Diaspora/Education/Immigration Affairs

KulyaNzogu	Arlene Graham	Charles Sharp	Sylvie Bello
Sylvie Bello	Theodore Ngatchou	KulyaNzogu	Darren Williams
NaadaFavitsou-Boulandi	Barbara A. Simmons	Samuel Nixon, Jr.	DamolaIdowu
		Elisabeth Hando	

#### Political Action/Economic Dev./Entrepreneurship/Research/Techno/Software Planning

Darius Stanton	Darius & Erica Stanton		MassalaReffell	<u>Infrastructure</u>
Sylvie Bello	KulyaNzogu	Samuel Nixon, Jr.	Charles Sharp	Erica Stanton
TheodoreNgatchou	Arlene Graham	TheodoreNgatchou	Samuel Nixon, Jr.	DamolaIdowu
MounaFarhat	NaadaFavitsou-Boulandi	Theodore Ngatchou	MounaFarhat	
	Leon Mensah (selected as chair for This subcom.)		Elisabeth Hando	Masala Reffell

## MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTIONS ITEMS

### Summary of Comments from Guest Speakers:

- Microsoft has several STEM initiatives in Africa.
- The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities is involved in efforts to increase HBCUs engagement in STEM disciplines and projects.
- William V.S. Tubman University's E-brary Project brought architectural students and faculty from Howard, Tuskegee and Morgan State Universities to Liberia to design a future E-brary and learning center.
- The Electronic Education Initiative (e-Don) partnered with Lincoln University (MO) to have the latter's faculty electronically teach students at the University of Benin
- The Association of Liberian Engineers-USA (ALEUSA) has entered into an agreement with Tubman University to develop STEM initiatives. It has interacted with had substantial and substantive conversations with the Liberian Government to create a Liberian National Science Foundation. The Ebola Crisis is currently the road block to moving this and other initiatives forward.
- Much progress has been made in bringing additional universities on-line with the African E-Library which is based in Alexandria, Egypt. Additional partners, particularly Africans, are being sought. The goal is to increase research among the African Academy. The Science Supercourse makes a great contribution towards obtaining the goal.
- CFA is committed to a long-term focus on promoting STEM in Africa.

### Summary of Audience Comments:

Potential Supporters and allies include Association of African Entrepreneurs, African(?) Chamber of Commerce based in the U.S. (One Life Society), ASA at HBCUs, networks of black: ambassadors, peace corps volunteers, greek chapters, Liberian community, National organizations, and immigration lawyers.

Potential funding might be obtained through biomedical research at NIH and DC OAA, medical schools including biostatistics, and Cornell Institute for African Development. The latter has a Liberian coordinator and Zambian head. Fogarty International Center at NIH gives grants. Texas universities give to Chad students. Stanford(?) has MBA African Fellows Program. Could create: work website for African students; an exchange program in development (including between African and African Americans), & lobby policies to have more African students, STEM database, and early childhood education on STEM.

Diaspora Engager.com matches services of 3,000+ organizations.

### High Priority Objectives and/or Action Items:

Since my attempts have not been successful in reaching the CFA STEM Chair, I would suggest that CFA follow up with the highly skilled and motivated persons who attended the Symposium and/or subsequent meetings. The sign-in sheets, etc. will be submitted to CFA as of this date. I thank all who served on the Planning Committee as well as all who attended. It was an honor and pleasure working with you. Special thanks to Microsoft and William V.S. Tubman University Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Simmons, J.D.

2/6/15