

Partnerships Between JMU and African Countries Committee

Zambia and Kenya Subcommittee

Spring 2023 Report

Membership

Chair(s):

Besi Muhonja & Linda Thomas

Members:

Melinda Adams, College of Arts and Letters
Jennifer Coffman, College of Integrated Science and Engineering
Michelle Cude, College of Education
Rubén Graciani, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Michael Gubser, College of Arts and Letters
Bob Kolvoord, College of Integrated Science and Engineering
Mark L'Esperance, College of Education
Charles May, Ole School Alumni
Maureen Mlambo, Graduate Student
Sombo Muzata, College of Arts and Letters
Bethany Nowviskie, Libraries
Ken Rutherford, College of Arts and Letters
Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza, African Education Program
Kayla Yurco, College of Integrated Science and Engineering

Charge: With globalization and shifting objectives and demographic needs in higher education, U.S. universities are challenged to redefine their recruitment, research, pedagogical and career development agendas. The African continent boasts some of the world's fastest growing technological and financial economies, and this African continent focused working group is charged with defining JMU's place in this expanding internationalized education and research model, while creating opportunities for research, teaching, and global community and civic engagement for our students, faculty and community. This initiative also enhances JMU's efforts in diversity, access and inclusion, and advances our vision to be a national model of the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world.

Summary of Current Semester Activity: College of Education/Research and Scholarship/XLabs trip to Kenya

Areas of Engagement

- Promoting and recruitment - COE teacher leadership training program
- Advancing MOUs
- International student recruitment
- JMU student placement for practicum
- Carnegie Fellowship partnership (Wangari Maathai)
- Faculty collaborative research and exchanges
- Collaborative grant applications
- Innovation hub partnerships

- Research affiliation for JMU faculty working in Kenya
- Student study abroad individualized experiences
- Student intern-/externships
- Global classrooms

Partner Visits and Meetings

- Masai Mara University
- Starehe Boys' Center
- Brookhouse School (Runda Campus)
- Rosslyn Academy
- Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Nairobi
- United States International University-Africa
- Kenyatta University
- Young African Leaders Initiatives
- Directorate of Innovation Incubation and University Industry Linkages

Future Work Planned

- June 2023: CISE Visit to Kenya (Dean Kolvoord): Kenyatta University, United States International University-Africa, Technical University of Kenya, Incubator and start-up spaces, smart cities.
- July/August 2023: Besi Muhonja - meetings in Kenya on behalf of JMU constituents and working with Wangari Maathai Institute on the archiving project with the support of R&S and JMU Libraries.
- Actualizing agreements listed above with our partners
- Finalizing MOUs