

# Partnerships Between JMU and African Counties Committee Zambia and Kenya Subcommittee Fall 2022 Report

## **Membership**

**Chair(s):** Besi Muhonja, Linda Thomas

**Members:** Melinda Adams, Jennifer Coffman, Michelle Cude, Rubén Graciani, Michael Gubser, Bob Kolvoord, Mark L'Esperance, Charles May, Sombo Muzata, Maureen Mlambo, Bethany Nowwiskie, Ken Rutherford, Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza, Kayla Yurco

**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 national model of the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world.

## **Summary of Current Semester Activity:**

- Heather, Linda, Julie-Anne and Besi made a trip to discuss partnerships with SUNY Schenectady on Zambia. Relationship was established and discussions are ongoing.
- Completed and submitted report for summer in Kenya.
- Handed over agreements for Kenya working plan to CGE so they could pursue an MOU. Awaiting update on that.
- Co-sponsored with R&S and the Creative Writing program literary reading with John Sibi Okumu and Sofia Samatar.