

Honoris United Universities and AfriLabs announce partnership to support entrepreneurship and innovation in Africa

Abuja, Nigeria, 29th October, 2021 – Today, at the 10th anniversary AfriLabs Annual Gathering in Abuja, Honoris United Universities announced an inaugural partnership with the pan-African innovation network to support the provision of entrepreneurship and innovation across the continent. With an established ecosystem of makerspaces, incubators and innovation centers across Africa, Honoris, the first and largest network of private higher education institutions in Africa, becomes part of the 300-strong network of hubs within the AfriLabs remit, the largest alliance of innovation and technology centers in the continent.

The announcement was made on the third and final day of the event during an ecosystem tour of AfriLabs partners, where leading Honoris institution Nile University of Nigeria welcomed over 100 delegates from the event for a full-day workshop and tour of facilities. As part of this, a panel discussion examined the ways in which entrepreneurship skills and mindsets are integral assets to Africa’s future workforce, supporting strategic pillars of Honoris’ employability mandate under its mission of *Education for Impact*.

Delegates from the AfriLabs network had the opportunity to hear from leading members of Nile University faculty, moderated by Dr Ahmed Adamu, Senior Lecturer in Economics at Nile, on how the institution embeds entrepreneurial skills and training into its programs. Key employability partners such as PwC also shared their insight alongside Nile alumna and mentors from the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

This year’s Annual Gathering focused on fostering interpersonal relationships between stakeholders and new partnerships that will contribute to the development of African economies with a focus on innovation. The flagship event provides a unique opportunity for hubs in the AfriLabs network and other stakeholders in the African tech ecosystem to convene, network, share knowledge and build partnerships.

AfriLabs exists to enable Africa to participate in the global knowledge and innovation marketplace thereby stimulating economic growth, through its capacity building, policy advocacy, research and events. Aligned in purpose, Honoris is focused on transforming higher education across the continent to educate the next generation of African leaders and entrepreneurs with industry-ready 21st century skills to meet the needs of demanding and increasingly digitized labor and start-up markets.

As part of the partnership, several immersive learning environments within Honoris institutions are being welcomed into the AfriLabs network, giving access to joint learning, events, collaboration, and knowledge exchange for Honoris students across the continent. This includes most recently the **Collective Lab** in Tunisia, as well as future additions of **Start-up 2.0** at Nile University of Nigeria and REGENT’s **Red-Hub** in South Africa. In addition, Honoris boasts a pan-African network of 21st century learning environments across its institutions supporting students in multiple disciplines like health, business, engineering, IT, creative arts and design, law and education.

Honoris United Universities group CEO, Dr. Jonathan Louw, said, “*We are committed to enhancing the employability of our students with a strong focus on entrepreneurship, partnerships, skills development and 21st century learning environments both physical and virtual. Leveraging the innovation DNA of both organizations, the collaboration with AfriLabs will enable us to broaden our*



commitment to providing Africa's future leaders with an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset to compete in the global jobs market. We are looking forward to strengthening and developing this partnership further towards achieving our common interest of transformative impact in our communities."

About Honoris United Universities

Honoris United Universities is the first and largest pan-African private higher education network committed to educating the next generation of African leaders and professionals able to impact regionally in a globalized world. Collaborative intelligence, cultural agility and mobile mind-sets and skills are at the heart of Honoris' vision of higher education. Honoris United Universities joins the expertise of its member institutions to develop world-class African Human talent that is competitive in today's fast-paced, demanding and increasingly digitized labour and start-up markets.

Honoris United Universities gathers a community of **61,000** students on **70** campuses, learning centres and via on-line, in **10** countries and **32** cities. The network counts **14** institutions: multidisciplinary universities, specialized schools, technical and vocational institutes, contact, distance, and online institutions. Students have an opportunity to experience exclusive partnerships and exchange programs in more than **85** universities across Europe and the United States. Over **300** degrees are offered in Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Creative Arts and Design, Media, Political Science and Education.

Honoris United Universities. Education for Impact. www.honoris.net

About AfriLabs

AfriLabs is the largest pan-African network organisation supporting Innovation Centers across African countries since 2011, founded upon the mission of building a community around the rapidly emerging technology hubs in Africa. The AfriLabs network consists of 292 technology and innovation centres across 49 countries in Africa.

These hubs serve as centers that provide support to African entrepreneurs, innovators, developers, and youths. By providing physical co-working and dedicated office spaces, as well as inclusive training and business, legal and financial support, AfriLabs play an active role in helping to raise successful entrepreneurs who will create jobs and develop innovative solutions to African problems. For further information, visit <https://afrilabs.com/>

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