

PRESS RELEASE

Honoris United Universities Celebrates Five Years of Education for Impact in Metaverse Event

CASABLANCA / DURBAN / TUNIS / ABUJA 14 July 2022 – Honoris United Universities, the first and largest network of private higher education institutions in Africa, celebrated its fifth anniversary in a unique metaverse event in the virtual Honoris Africa Campus bringing together 3,500 staff from 15 institutions across the continent.

In collaboration with and powered by Gather Town, the month-long event included masterclasses, events, interactive games, and most importantly recreating the serendipity of real interactions for the people of Honoris across borders.

Recent projections cite the opportunity for the metaverse to generate up to \$5 trillion in impact by 2030, equivalent to the size of the world's third-largest economy today, Japan. It is shaping up to be the biggest new growth opportunity for several industries in the coming decade, given its potential to enable new business models, products, and services. In academic virtual learning alone, it is estimated that it could have an impact between \$180 and \$270 billion.

Most large players in the sector have projected that a single, global metaverse is at least a decade away, but the opportunities for education, particularly increasing access and quality in our sector, is here today. At Honoris United Universities, this aligns to the digital transformation deployed in each institution across Africa, and a natural evolution of its mission to deliver innovative, relevant models of education throughout the student journey to improve the learning outcomes of its students.

Group CEO, Dr Jonathan Louw, commented, *“The building of metaverse realities should never be a substitute for the real world. But it is now simply too big to be ignored. We as leaders have an opportunity to shape the metaverse in a way that fosters greater social cohesion, reduces inequality, widens access to education, and acts as a catalyst for social mobility. We will continue to dare to explore, test, journey and expand our horizons. The transition into the metaverse will catalyse virtual education delivery as we begin to embrace the opportunity to increase free movement, peer-to-peer interaction, transactions, user-generated content and world-building.”*

Honoris responds with agility to the requirements for skillsets driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, by adding new programs such as Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, exploring tech-enabled learning systems such as AR and VR, and combining the delivery of courses, both online and in-person, with state-of-the-art learning centers both physical and digital. Since 2017, Honoris has established 11 multi-purpose 21st Century Learning Environments including innovation hubs, incubators, makerspaces, and cutting-edge laboratories.

The transformative Honoris model for impact in education in Africa was recently recognised by the World Economic Forum and welcomed into the New Champions community, a collective of dynamic high-growth companies that are championing new business models, emerging technologies, and sustainable growth strategies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, whilst remaining mindful of their impact on society to build a better future.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Honoris United Universities

Honoris United Universities is the first and largest pan-African private higher education network committed to transforming lives through relevant education for lifetime success. Collaborative intelligence, cultural agility and mobile mind-sets are at the heart of the Honoris approach to educate the next generation of leaders and professionals able to impact regionally in a globalized world. Honoris combines 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 comprises a community of **71,000** students on **70+** campuses, learning centres and via on-line, in **10** African countries and **32** cities. The network is formed of **15** 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 **190** universities across Europe, the United States and Asia. Over **420** degrees are offered in Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Creative Arts, Fashion and Design, Media, Political Science and Education.

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

For Media Information:

James Deacon, Communications Manager, Honoris United Universities
jdeacon@honoris.net
+233 55 433 4778