

Leaders In International Development Tell Why They Support Ashesi

Ashesi University is, quite simply, the best development investment bargain around. In my years with the IFC, I saw dozens of projects in Africa, and Ashesi is by far the best-run and most effective. Ashesi students are receiving a transformative education unique in Africa, and they are using their skills to develop practical, locally needed improvements in both the business and nonprofit arenas. Ashesi is an accelerator for progress in many areas. This university, created and run by a visionary African, is what Africa really needs and hence deserves our generous support.

Peter Woicke, Managing Director, World Bank, (retired) and Executive Vice President, International Finance Corporation (IFC) (retired) Board Chair, International Save the Children Alliance and current Ashesi Trustee.

Our family's philanthropy has been guided by the principle of promoting self-reliance. Societies, families and individuals succeed when their creativity, energy and drive are unleashed and empowered. This is why Ashesi is not just a good idea, but an essential piece of the equation.

Mike Murray, co-founder, Unitus, an award-winning microfinance foundation; retired Microsoft executive; Past Ashesi trustee

Ashesi is the most exciting thing happening in Africa today

Henry Louis Gates, Director, Harvard University Institute for African and African American Research

Fundamental change in Africa requires enlightened, committed and home-grown African leadership. Ashesi is a uniquely African institution that empowers bright, ambitious African youths to think for themselves and prepares them to develop their own solutions to their continent's challenges. Ashesi is thus both a strategic and highly leveraged way to provide support.

Paul Maritz, Chairman of the Board of the Grameen Foundation (Microfinance),

Microsoft Senior Executive (retired) ,
Current CEO of VMware Corporation.

Ashesi is an African-initiated innovation to use higher education as a vehicle to build integrity and creative problem-solving (rather than rote learning) into the next generation of African leadership. It provides first class education, offers special opportunities for women, and goes out of its way to include the poor. Despite its modest size it has high visibility in Ghana and already has stimulated changes in Ghanaian higher education. But most important, it is a powerful testament to West Africa of what an individual and institution of absolute integrity can achieve in an environment troubled by corruption.

Anyone who is serious about wanting African solutions to African problems should be supporting Ashesi.

David K. Leonard, Professorial Fellow in Governance, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), a leading global organization for research, teaching and communications on international development at the University of Sussex; Dean Emeritus, International and Area Studies, UC Berkeley. Chairman, Ashesi Board of Trustees

Collaborations with Leading Institutions

Nokia (pilot mobile programming workshop) • Institute of Development Studies IDS (social science research training) • Carnegie Mellon (robotics) • Mediators Without Borders (joint project for former child soldiers) • Curriculum input: UC Berkeley; University of Washington; Swarthmore College • Study abroad: New York University, Babson College, Ohio State • Numerous local and international NGOs.

Awards for Ashesi and for founder Patrick Awuah

World Economic Forum, Young Global Leader Award, 2007 • TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design), Invited Speaker, 2007 • The President of Ghana Order of the Volta Award, 2007 • Honorary Doctorate, Swarthmore College, 2004 • McNulty Prize for Young Leaders, Finalist 2008 • Educating Africa Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education, Ghana Country Award, 2008.

Ashesi University is an African-initiated private, secular, not-for-profit college in Ghana. Our mission is to educate a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa; to cultivate within our students the critical thinking skills, the concern for others, and the courage it will take to transform their continent. Ashesi is a catalyst for locally-led progress.