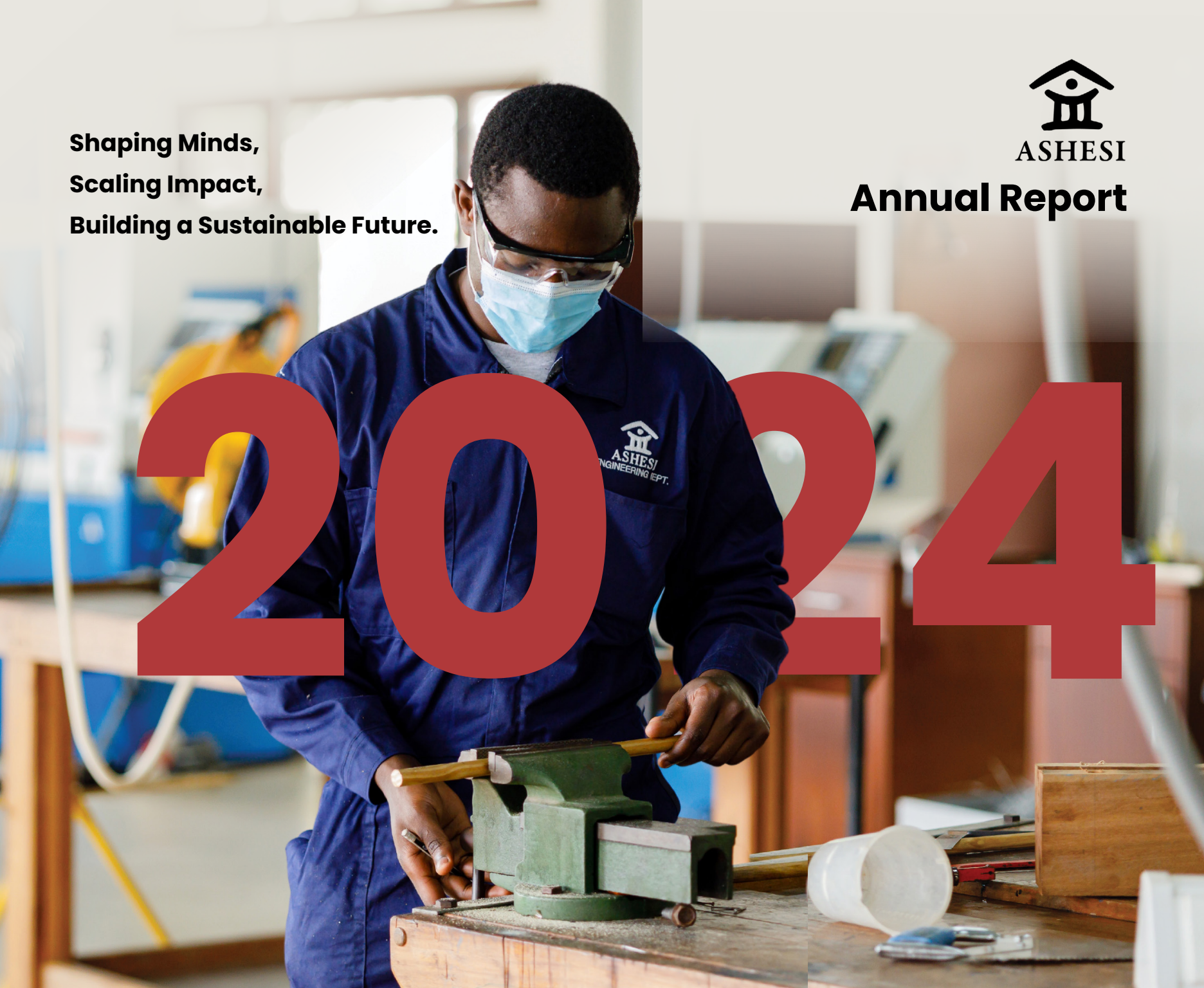


Shaping Minds,
Scaling Impact,
Building a Sustainable Future.

ASHESI

Annual Report

2024

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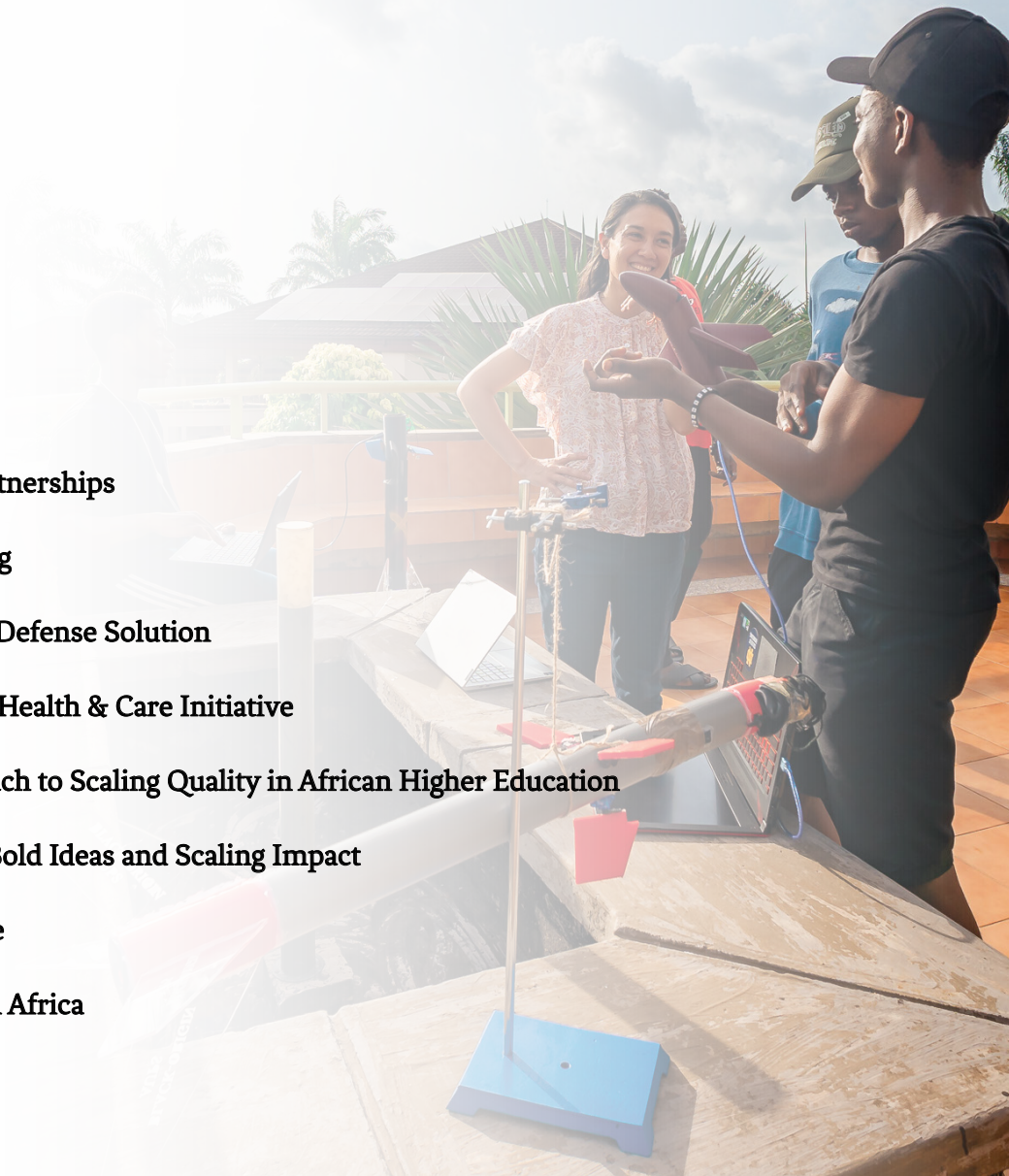
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Letter from the President

Each year, I have the privilege of reflecting on the scale of Ashesi's ambition—enabling a flourishing Africa driven by ethical leadership and innovation. And every year, I catch my breath at the urgency of our mission.

Solving big problems requires us to identify where potential energy exists, recognise what is already working, and apply effort to leverage that potential. Ashesi's work is grounded in this principle. We seek out places where hope and possibility intersect, and we invest in unlocking the potential of young leaders who will carry this work forward for generations to come.

Each new milestone—a research effort that brings new insight into addressing pressing African climate adaptation challenges, a student who develops a machine learning algorithm to diagnose cataracts, a collective effort by African universities that leads to stronger learning outcomes for 320,000 students—reinforces our belief that change is happening, and we are making progress. Each new milestone gives us hope.

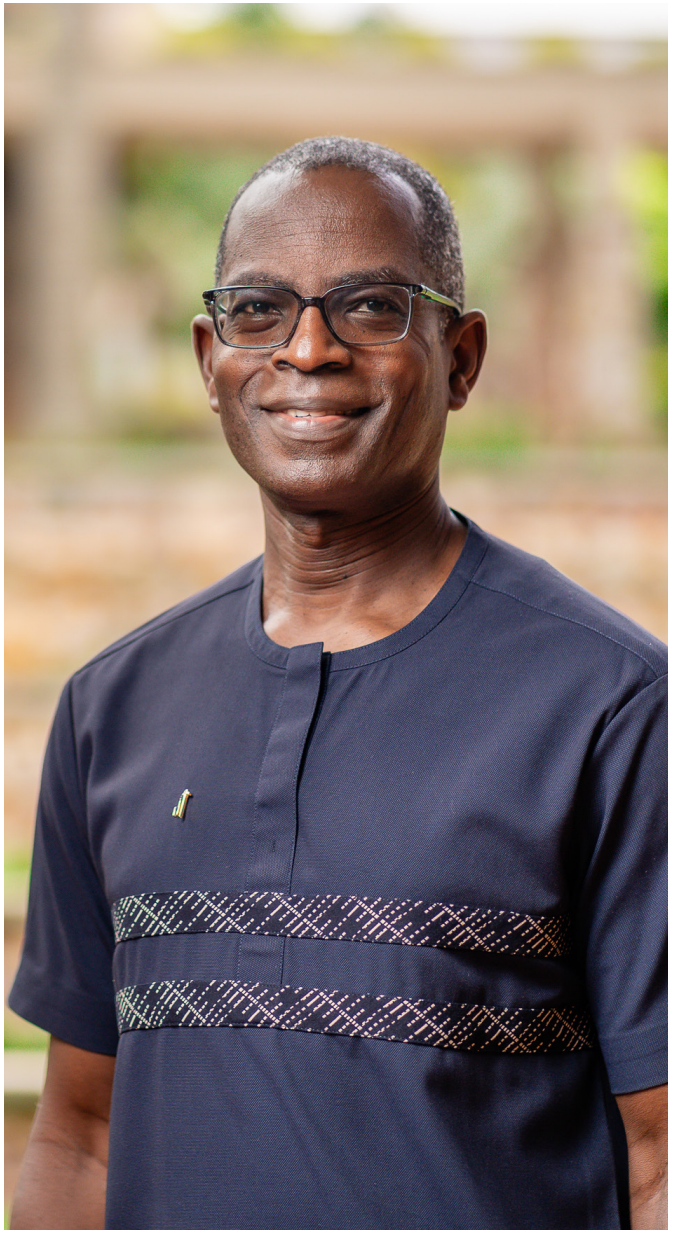
Hope, for me, is not the same as wishful thinking; it is the patient and persistent application of our talents to solve problems.

This year, our community continues to demonstrate what is possible when bold ideas meet determined action. Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for believing in this work and in the young leaders who will shape the continent's future. There is much more to do, but if we remain aligned and keep pushing forward, we will see incredible things unfold.

Sincerely,



Patrick Awuah
President, Ashesi University Foundation and Ashesi University



Ashesi University Foundation 2024 Highlights

Ashesi's mission has become more relevant than ever, and today we can do more than sustain the University and its initiatives, we can ensure it continues to flourish and evolve in perpetuity. Over the years, the Foundation's consistent role has been to catalyze philanthropic partnerships and connect Ashesi with like-minded global citizens who want to be part of something larger. We aim to continue this good work through deepening relationships with donors and organizations, building a best-in-class team, and securing financial support for the areas of greatest need and highest priority.



Deep Dive particants explore Ashesi's Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab).

Deep Dive 2024

The Ashesi University Deep Dive offers a unique chance to understand how higher education can unlock African innovation and entrepreneurship. We hope to see you in Ghana this year October 20 to 23 to experience ethical, entrepreneurial leadership education in person.

Scan me

Learn more about the upcoming 2025 Deep Dive



Ashesi Student Ambassador, Mansa, gives a tour of the campus to Deep Dive particants.

Student Ambassador Program

Our three ambassadors Naa '25, Cynthia '25, and Mansa '25 *(pictured below)* are helping us curate experiences that bring donors to campus via digital engagement opportunities to share the impact of an Ashesi education through the lens of students like them.

Scan me

Watch a Thank-You video from our Student Ambassadors



$5.3 Million
fundraised in 2024 from donors, organizations, & foundations

$3.7 Million
in grants sent to the University to support university priorities, scholarships, and special projects

$14.5 Million
value of US Endowment for Ashesi as of 12/31/24

267
donors

*These are not our audited totals. We will share our 2024 audited financials later this year. If you want to be alerted when this becomes available, please email Director of Donor Relations Jo-Ellen Reilley, at jreilley@ashesi.org.





Investiture Ceremony Honoring Outstanding Faculty

We continue to develop ways in which to invest in Ashesi faculty and through this process uncover the opportunities that best serve the University. The Patrick Awuah Professorial Chair and Hopper-Dean Fellowship were awarded to Associate Professor Nathan Amanquah and Dr. Ayorkor Korsah at an inaugural investiture ceremony in October. This marked a historic milestone in Ashesi's journey to deepen faculty research and excellence in teaching. Thank you to the many donors and the Hopper-Dean Foundation for making this possible.

Read more: https://ashe.si/4apJFO7!



The Fund for Ashesi & Global Giving Week

This year, The Fund for Ashesi was named to represent the flexible and unrestricted pool of funds that support key areas of the Strategic Plan ensuring we remain a vibrant, dynamic institution for students.

Global Giving Week brings our community together of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and donors from across the globe in a fun challenge to raise money for Ashesi. In 2024, our goal was raise $30,000 for scholarships. Not only did we meet this goal, but it was exceeded raising nearly $45,000. We are so thankful for our community's generosity!

Learn more about the Fund for Ashesi: https://ashe.si/4jnWmNh!

Ashesi University Foundation Highlights

Ashesi Team Presents at GPSF Conference: Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation 21st Annual Conference

Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation (GPSF) networks with other physicians and aims to provide medical education, advance healthcare infrastructure, and make an impact on healthcare in Ghana.

At the GPSF annual conference earlier this month, Ashesi's Head of Engineering Dr. Elena Rosca and Ashesi University Foundation Board Member Dr. Lewis Roberts each presented.

In her remarks Dr. Rosca discussed how Ashesi is embarking on a journey in health and biotechnology education and research, and how student and faculty research in bioengineering is advancing the University's academic goals. She concluded that Ashesi University is establishing an educational incubator to nurture exceptional biological engineers who will support the development of Ghana's biotechnology industry.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Lewis Roberts, Dr. Teresa Clark Fowler, Erika Amoako-Agyei, and Dr. Elena Rosca.



Scan me

Read Dr. Rosca's abstract

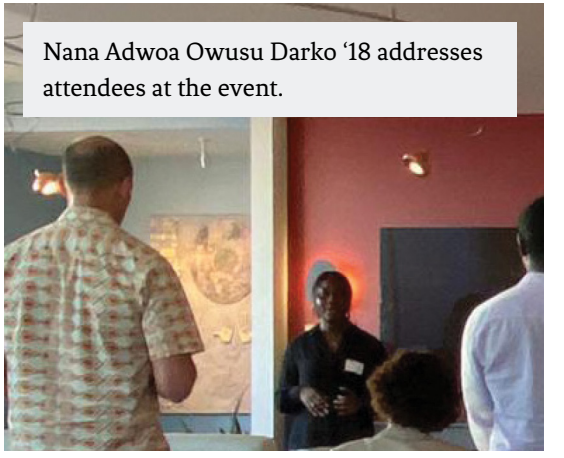
2024 Foundation Event Highlights

We love to host and offer events for our community. These events are an opportunity to bring Ashesi to you and connect you with campus leadership, board members, students, and alumni.

Donor Recognition Event in Seattle hosted by Board Members Ruth & Todd Warren.







Nana Adwoa Owusu Darko '18 addresses attendees at the event.

Bay Area Event hosted by Board Member Abe Ankumah and his wife, Jackie Ankumah.



Pictured from left to right: Patrick Ayertey '08, Patrick Awuah, Marilyn Adutwum '17, Anna Essuman '17, and Kwame Essuman.

If you would like to host an Ashesi event, please contact Erika Amoako-Agyei, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships.

Please scan the QR code to send an email.

2024 Year in Review



54% of students are on scholarships

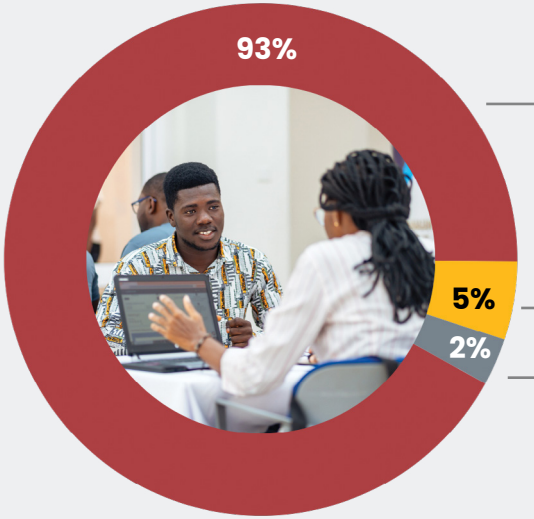


48% of students are women



26% of students are international students

Class of 2022 Graduation Placement



Placed within six months of completing their national service.

Received job offers but did not accept any.

Applied to graduate school or other job opportunities.



Five New Academic Programs

- Law with Public Policy (LLB.)
- MSc Intelligent Computing Systems
- BSc Economics
- BSc Mechatronic Engineering
- Master in Business Administration



New Construction: Hostel 2E

As Ashesi continues to grow, our demand for housing has increased. With support from Ashesi University Foundation Canada, the construction of the Hostel 2E cluster has been completed.

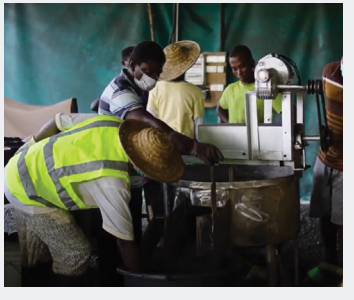
This has added 256 beds, a near 40% increase from our current housing numbers, and has also dramatically shifted our enrollment capacity to accept more qualified students from across the continent.

We are excited to cut the proverbial ribbon in the 2025 academic year.

Ranked 9th in 2024 Times Higher Education's (THE) Sub-Saharan Africa University Rankings.



45 ventures enrolled under Ashesi's Health & Care Initiative program, with each led by an Ashesi student or alum.



320,041 students reached through tailored initiatives and programs, with 472 participating institutions.



596,000 megatons of CO2 saved as a result of the work of GCIC enterprises.



Embracing the 4th Industrial Revolution in Africa





Pictured: Construction on Ashesi's STEM Innovation building began in Q3 of 2024 and will be completed Q3 of 2026.

Ashesi has introduced new programs to deepen the impact of teaching and research work by students and faculty, with the goal of ultimately strengthening Africa's talent pipeline. These programs will help address some of Africa's most pressing challenges, from agriculture and food security to financial inclusion, energy access, and unlocking manufacturing potential.

A postgraduate degree in Intelligent Computing Systems and an undergraduate degree in Mechatronic Engineering have been launched.

Students continue to hone their technological skills so they are equipped to solve a wide range of problems, including detecting the presence of malaria in a blood smear for hospitals in under-resourced parts of Africa.

To support our ability to foster innovation and provide new spaces for research, Ashesi's new STEM building is expected to be completed by August 2026.

Our exceptional faculty and new campus infrastructure will bolster the growth of our academic programs, and equip our graduates with the skills they need to enter the world beyond campus. Our key donors, organizations, and strategic partners help amplify our ability to foster innovation and entrepreneurship within a new generation of leaders.

Supporting University Priorities

Preparing Graduates to Embrace Africa's Greatest Opportunities

A singular philosophy has driven Ashesi's community since our inception: Africa's future progress, or the lack of it, is inextricably linked to what is happening in African universities. To safeguard Africa's future, we must be intentional about how we educate the students on the continent who will inevitably become its leaders.

Patrick Awuah's vision for the continent and Ashesi's mission is shared by Drs. Cyril Ofori and Amelia Laing who generously established an endowed fund to support university priorities.

Drs. Cyril and Amelia were inspired when they witnessed "Ashesi grow from a small college in a residential area into now a much sought-after institution with graduates of high academic and ethical standards." They believe that Ashesi is producing leaders with the skills to create practical solutions to problems and instilling the importance of integrity, accountability, and transparency in its graduates.

The generosity of donors like Drs. Cyril and Amelia and other philanthropic partnerships continues to be invaluable as Ashesi carries its mission forward to educate the next generation of African leaders.

Contact us to make a pledge or to discuss an endowment or naming opportunity: foundation@ashesi.org.

Scan the QR code to read our Endowment, Investment, & Spending Policy.



Drs. Cyril Ofori and Amelia Laing

For Africa's young people to harness the opportunities of the next decade to drive growth across the continent and for Ashesi to achieve its ambitious goals outlined in the strategic plan, philanthropic contributions are imperative. As Ashesi continues to introduce new majors and programs and establish new centers and initiatives, it will ensure we continue to be a leading African institution.

Scan me



Scholarships at Ashesi



For scholarship recipients like Samuel Yussif '26, a Computer Science major in the class of 2026, the construction of the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Building has ignited a new level of excitement. The building will provide new spaces for research and innovation.

As an aspiring computer scientist interested in pursuing a career in artificial intelligence (AI), Samuel recognizes that he needs to possess more than just the technical skills to excel in the industry.

He writes:

"Ashesi has raised my bar of expectations for the skills that a computer scientist, like me, should meet. I must possess the technical expertise and knowledge to transcend machines' capabilities to thrive in this industry. This includes my ability to maximize the potential of AI tools and to integrate them into society meaningfully.

Traditional coding is no longer the sole requirement for success. Instead, the industry demands a blend of technical skills, ethical character, and the values to do what is right. And that's exactly what an Ashesi education aims to do. This is what makes Ashesi unique."

Ashesi scholarships make a profound difference in the lives of our students, and donor support, of all sizes, ensures that an Ashesi education is possible for all, regardless of their economic means or social circumstances.

The availability of scholarships does more than simply open doors for students from across the continent, it helps foster a diverse learning community and enables the University to recruit the most capable, bright, and talented students. **Thank you for helping us offer a transformative education to students and providing the resources to prepare the next generation of African leaders and entrepreneurs.**



"Your investment in my education will continue to yield dividends in the form of positive contributions to society."

Nonzuzo Sikhosana '26
Computer Science
Ashesi University

Donor Support Fuels Faculty Excellence

With the increase of Ashesi's student enrollment and the growth of programs within the Computer Science and Engineering departments, donor support has been crucial in recruiting and retaining high-quality faculty.

Thanks to the Archer Cornfield Fellowship, established by David and Linda Archer Cornfield, Ashesi has provided students and senior faculty with invaluable support, strengthening teaching and research on campus.

Key Highlights

- Annajiat Rasel designed and taught a new course, Introduction to Modelling and Simulation, which has now been introduced as part of our curriculum.
- Dr. Umut Tosum's course, Concepts of Programming Languages, would not have been possible due to lack of expertise amongst current Ashesi faculty, providing students a unique opportunity.

Archer Cornfield Fellows 2023-24



Eyram Tawia

Co-taught Computer Game Development with Natasha (below) in the fall of 2023 and supervised capstone projects.



Dr. Govindha Yeluripati

Taught Algorithm Design & Analysis, Object-Oriented Programming, and Information and Systems Security. He also supervised capstone projects.



Natasha Skult

A new Computer Game Development course was created and co-taught by Eyram Tawia and Natasha Skult.



Dr. Bill Hoskins

Spent his career working with "quants" in a wide range of fields inspiring students to apply their skills and knowledge to business concepts.

The Enduring Impact of Ashesi's Research and Partnerships

Our donors and partners play a crucial role in enabling us to maintain and add to research facilities, support talented faculty and students, and engage in research that addresses critical issues facing Africa and the world.

Ashesi's Fab Lab received equipment from USAID which includes eight additional 3D printers for research and student use.



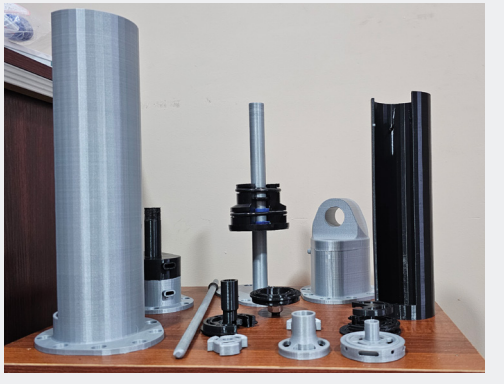
Ashesi alum Samuel Awuah's capstone project *(Pictured right)* was constructed with 3D-printed components assembled for demonstration. His project investigated the feasibility of using a variable orifice mechanism to achieve semi-active damping (in vehicles) without external valves.

Our research initiatives are grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration and a commitment to societal impact. We highly encourage student involvement in all forms. Through such engagement, students gain the experience and critical skills necessary for future leaders in academia, industry, and beyond.

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Our longstanding partnership with USAID has enabled the growth and expansion of our campus and its infrastructure. This includes student housing and equipment. Investments in these key areas supports our ability to increase enrollment capacity and nourish our academic programs.







Engineering Seniors Innovate for Sustainable Farming

Daniel Amoshie '23 *(pictured above),* known for his inventive spirit, turned his passion for farming into a business during the COVID-19 lockdowns by starting a catfish farm in Ghana. Facing high costs for traditional protein feed, Daniel and a fellow Ashesi engineering student discovered black soldier flies as a sustainable, protein-rich alternative. However, managing the insects' lifecycle proved challenging due to their sensitivity to environmental conditions.

For their final-year project, the duo developed "Flysol," an automated breeding machine to simplify black soldier fly farming (pictured right). Flysol reduces farming costs, repurposes food waste, and enables small to medium-scale farmers to produce high-quality protein feed and fertilizer sustainably.

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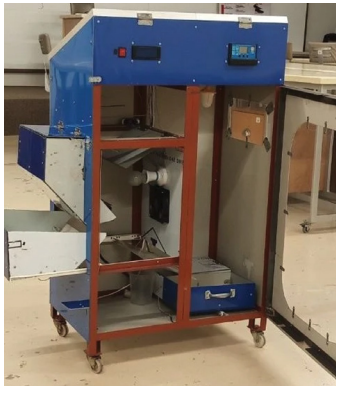
Learn more about "Flysol".

BOURSIERS McCall MacBain SCHOLARS

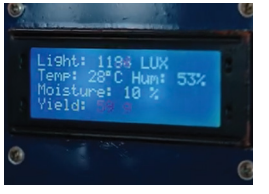
Daniel was selected as a 2024 recipient of the McCall MacBain Scholarships at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, which was established by a landmark gift by John and Marcy McCall MacBain. The only Ghanaian recipient this year, chosen from thousands of international applicants, he will be pursuing a master's in Mechanical Engineering.

> "I look forward to further sharpening my design skills and gaining unique insights from mentors and advisors at McGill to develop more innovative solutions to help mechanize the agricultural activities of marginalized communities in Ghana and Africa."
>
> **Daniel Amoshie '23**









Our Commitment to Excellent Teaching & Learning

When you give to research, you are investing in key areas of faculty and student research, and helping us expand our reach through our partnerships and initiatives.

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at Ashesi



"SoTL research builds and explores the desired shift in faculty paradigm from the focus on their own teaching to understanding and addressing their students' learning. It's faculty recognizing that good teaching is aspirational but not enough, nor the end goal of teaching. Evidence of student learning is achieved with SoTL research which enables higher education faculty to partner with students to capture the complexity in student learning and students' inquiry into their own learning. Teaching improves and often makes higher education faculty exceptional teachers who make public their peer-critiqued contribution to higher education teaching and learning."

Professor Angela Owusu-Ansah, The Provost, Ashesi University

As Ashesi grows, we are deepening our commitment to research and the role it plays in teaching and the greater African landscape in which the University and its graduates operate. Ashesi is pioneering a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) approach to research and using this lens to analyze and measure the impact of our courses and teaching methods, and in turn, share these findings within the larger education community.

Under SoTL, professors can evaluate themselves and the effectiveness of their pedagogy helping them continue to improve and hone their skills as educators. These findings can then be published and applied across disciplines for their peers and other universities to lean on.



"Partaking in SoTL-related research grants me the privilege to contribute to the collective knowledge of humanity. Every classroom encounter contains research problems and questions that spark my interest for further probing. SoTL allows me the opportunity to conduct all these classroom-related, student-centered investigations without worrying about limitations of sample size but still maintaining the same rigor of academic research."

Mensimah Kwaffo, Lecturer and Researcher, Department of Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Ashesi University

Ashesi Team Wins Gold Medal for Innovative Sea Defense Solution

The team is the fifth from Ashesi to participate in the 2024 International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition held in Paris, France, which brings together students from around the world to solve pressing challenges using synthetic biology.



Scan me

Learn more about the team's research

Their research tackled what they describe as Ghana's "dual threat" of coastal erosion and sea plastic pollution. Working through the first half of 2024, the team developed a bio-concrete pentapod that addresses both challenges in a sustainable, enduring way. At the heart of the solution is an engineered genetic system integrated into a naturally occurring marine bacterium, Vibrio natriegens. The system is designed to degrade polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic into eco-friendly components, which can then also facilitate the creation of bio-cement. This bio-cement in turn heals the pentapod structure, extending its durability and effectiveness in protecting coastlines from erosion.



"It is amazing to watch how far we have come. We now have state-of-the-art labs and equipment that allow us to accomplish a lot more in bioengineering education. I am thankful to the university community, the Ashesi University Foundation, and our donors for the support."

Dr. Elena Rosca
Engineering Department Head and Senior Lecturer, Ashesi University
Principal investigator for the project.

Striving towards Ashesi's Strategic Goals: Ashesi's Health & Care Initiative

Africa, encompassing nearly 20 percent of the world's population, currently faces a significant shortage of skilled health workers, with only 2.2 skilled health workers per 1,000 population—one-third of the global average according to the World Health Organization. Additionally, health education and ecosystems in Africa are inconsistent and lacking in many instances in Africa. Consequently, by 2030, there will be a shortage of about six million skilled health workers. These factors combined underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to unlock the healthcare sector's untapped economic potential.

To address this growing need, the Mastercard Foundation introduced the Africa Higher Education Health Collaborative (AHEHC), currently referred to as the Africa Health Collaborative (AHC). The AHC is a pioneering initiative aimed at strengthening primary healthcare across Africa and empowering the continent's health sector through transformative education and innovation. The AHC is comprised of 9 African Universities, including Ashesi University and the University of Toronto.



"The Africa Higher Education Health Collaborative seeks to leverage universities to address the critical challenges facing the health sector in Africa and in the process create work opportunities for young people."

Peter Materu, Chief Program Officer, Mastercard Foundation

Ashesi's belief in African universities' potential to achieve transformational goals when they work collaboratively was one of the reasons Ashesi joined the consortium. An additional reason for Ashesi joining the AHC was the alignment of the consortium goals with Ashesi's strategic goal to tackle the challenge and opportunity of global health disruptions. Specifically, following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ashesi recognized the opportunity presented to invest in African healthcare through its healthcare technology, bioengineering research, health education, and health entrepreneurship.

Scan me

Learn more about the Africa Health Collaborative.

This network of institutions "will allow collaboration to reach across borders and sectoral divisions to address health sector challenges in the African geopolitical context collectively. By collaborative leveraging, the power of institutions as sites of knowledge exchange and cross-sector partnerships will endorse the critical missions of learning and teaching, research, and community service outreach". The African continent should see an improvement in health practices of participating regions by the end of the decade.

Ashesi contributes to the three AHC pillars of Health Entrepreneurship, Health Ecosystem, and Health Employment, in various ways, with the Ashesi Health and Care Initiative incubator serving as a sector of the Ashesi Entrepreneurship Center.

This year, the Ashesi Health and Care Initiative enrolled 45 ventures, each led by an Ashesi student or alum.

The 45 active ventures include:

Limbtech operates in the dynamic field of 3D-printed prosthetic solutions, catering to men, women, and children from 5 to 60 years.

Premanopt Health offers a scalable, secure electronic health record system that is easy to use and accessible via web, mobile, or USSD. It provides on-demand medical information access, facilitates patient communication, supports local languages, and includes advanced health analytics.

Happy Tribe aims to revolutionize mental health support systems for students in universities and colleges.

ChuChu Softies *(pictured right)* manufactures high-quality, affordable, safe, reusable sanitary pads.

VitalNeoCare focuses on developing vital sign monitoring for neonates.







Patrick Awuah Makes the Case for Ashesi's Approach to Scaling Quality in African Higher Education

At Emerson Collective's 2024 Demo Day, Patrick Awuah spotlighted the transformative work of the Education Collaborative at Ashesi and the bold vision to improve learning outcomes for hundreds of thousands of African students within a decade.

Scan me

Watch Patrick speak at Emerson Collective's Demo Day 2024

Scan me

Learn more about the Education Collaborative

The Education Collaborative

THE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Through an affiliation of institutions across sub-Saharan Africa, the Education Collaborative network will transform over 1.1 million students by 2030 to be ethical, entrepreneurial leaders who create jobs, transform industries, and lead economies. **With up to 320,041 students reached, a 39% increase from last year's 195,905, the goal of reaching over 1.1 million by 2033 is steadily on track.**

Nearly in its eighth year, the Education Collaborative has engaged educators from half of the continent's countries. In 2025, it will host its annual convening in Rwanda—the first time this major event will be held outside Ghana—marking a significant milestone in its growing network across the continent.

"We're beginning to see our little drops across the continent collect into flowing streams. If we succeed in growing this Collaborative, we may yet create that mighty ocean that transforms Africa's economic potential for good."

Patrick Awuah
Founder and President
Ashesi University

The Education Collaborative's Impact

57 formal Education Collaborative University members

582 university administrators and faculty engaged through all our programs

472 higher education institutions reached, over the lifespan of the Collaborative

320,000 students impacted by the Education Collaborative

2024 Highlights

- The Education Collaborative hosted its 2024 East Africa Hub Convening which aims to bring educators, administrators, and institutions together. Higher education institutions on the continent tend to focus on the hard skills and often lack the programs that prepare students for the world of work.

- Kepler Soft Skills Center is designed to equip graduates with 21st century skills, which are highly desirable by employers in diverse sectors. The curriculum focuses on professionalism, communication, and digital literacy, integrating problem-solving skills into every module.

- The Career Fair Initiative assists higher education institutions in organizing and hosting successful career fairs on their campuses to build their employer relationships and connect students with potential employers. Ho Technical University hosted its first career fair with our support and kicked off with a preparatory session that included a workshop on CV writing with over 270 students.

- Executive Director Rose A. Dodd's interviewed with Simegnish Lily, Yekoye Mengesha, Anasthasie Tudieshe, and Auriane Itangishaka on Voice of America's, "Our Voices". In the discussion, Rose highlights the challenges of graduate employability and how higher education institutions in Africa can better prepare their students for the evolving world of work.

Click here to watch the interview or scan the QR code

Ashesi's Center for Entrepreneurship: Nurturing Bold Ideas and Scaling Impact



Center for Entrepreneurship's Roundtable: Connecting Ideas to Real-World Impact

At the roundtable, students connected with industry experts to explore how bold ideas can become innovative solutions and ventures with significant impact. The industry experts shared perspectives on emerging trends, critical gaps, and growth opportunities—challenging students to approach innovation with sustainability, market relevance, and impact in mind. Students left equipped with the tools to refine their ideas, align projects with industry needs, and build ventures that address some of Africa's most pressing challenges.



Empowering Growth: 16 Alumni Ventures Secure $80,000 in support

In partnership with the Allan & Gill Gray Foundation, Ashesi University has awarded $80,000 in grants to 16 alumni-led businesses, empowering them to scale operations, expand markets, and address critical growth challenges. Following a rigorous evaluation process focused on sustainability, feasibility, and financial accountability, 16 ventures were selected from 21 applicants, including WhollyKombucha, a wellness-focused food manufacturing company started by Nana Pokua Owusu-Sekyere '13.



ACE Business Diaries: Spotlighting Student Entrepreneurs

At the ACE Business Diaries, three inspiring student entrepreneurs took center stage to share their journeys, hard-won lessons, and practical strategies with over 60 of their peers. This initiative, started by Ashesi's Center for Entrepreneurship, reaffirms the University's commitment to cultivating a culture of entrepreneurship—where bold ideas are celebrated, challenges fuel growth, and students are empowered to take the first steps toward building ventures that matter.

Shaping Innovative Minds for a Sustainable Future



"Climate action is one of the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and education plays a pivotal role in shaping the mindset of graduates who can develop innovative solutions to climate challenges.

By equipping students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to understand the science, politics, and societal impacts of climate change, Ashesi aims to produce graduates capable of driving meaningful change."

Mr. Gideon Osabutey
Lecturer, Academic Affairs
Ashesi University

At less than 4%, Africa's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions has been the smallest share among all the world's regions. However, according to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the continent is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to:

- High dependence on rain-fed agriculture
- Limited infrastructure
- Weak adaptation measures to the impact of climate change

Building up the continent's ability to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change is critical for our future. Ashesi has started building climate change awareness into our core curriculum and across all our academic programs. This was inspired by the University's strategic commitment to sustainability and innovation.



Transforming the Learning Experience: Real-World Applications and Impact

In an interview with Mr. Gideon Osabutey, he highlighted that building climate change awareness into Ashesi's core curriculum aligns with global trends, where universities worldwide are embedding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their educational frameworks. Far from a prescriptive approach, Ashesi's climate curriculum fosters an environment where students engage in discussions, debates, and problem-solving. "Our goal is not to dictate opinions but to cultivate independent thinking," said Mr. Osabutey. "Students learn to analyze the science of climate change, understand governance structures, and appreciate the options available to address the crisis."

This approach is deeply integrated into courses across various departments. For instance, in an Internet of Things (IoT) course, students explored how IoT technologies can be leveraged to address climate issues. Similarly, in a project management course, students designed projects tackling climate challenges, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world problems. Such interdisciplinary integration ensures students see the relevance of climate action within diverse fields. Integrating climate awareness into Ashesi's curriculum extends beyond the classroom: students in Foundation of Design and Engineering courses, for example, learn eco-design principles, considering the environmental impacts of materials, transportation, and energy efficiency in product development.

Looking Ahead

While the integration of climate topics across Ashesi's courses has been successful, Mr. Osabutey emphasizes the need for continuous evaluation. Plans are underway to assess how these topics are being delivered and how students are applying their knowledge to their research. This approach will ensure the program's success and that it remains relevant to the times and an impactful part of the Ashesi pedagogy/ curriculum.

Mr. Osabutey taught no courses for three semesters, focusing solely on meeting each faculty member individually to review their syllabi collaboratively, and with the faculty member identifying at least one area on the syllabus that would allow an authentic integration of climate thinking and application. Once that was established and he had taught the faculty member the content and essence of the concept, then he would find climate related materials for that activity to supplement the syllabus' intended learning goals. The individual faculty member engagement was important to ensure faculty buy-in and implementation.

All typical Ashesi courses (core and repeat electives) including French, Africana etc., underwent climate-concept integration. The hope is to cultivate in students a climate-conscious habit of mind by graduation and beyond.



Student Perspective

"Studying Climate Change and Innovation this year has significantly deepened my understanding of the science and politics of climate change. It helped me understand the critical role of climate adaptation initiatives in fostering a resilient and thriving Africa in the face of climate challenges.

Inspired by these insights, I pioneered a project in Savelugu, Northern Ghana, aimed at restoring shea parklands currently in decline due to rainfall variability and human-induced factors.

I have been inspired to pursue a career in climate finance and ESG advisory. Additionally, it influenced the direction of my undergraduate thesis, where I am exploring how Ghana can build an inclusive green economy by integrating the informal sector, particularly market women."

Cynthia Anaba '25
Business Administration

Gislaine Kengne: A Voice for Climate Adaptation in Africa



At just two years old, Ashesi student Gislaine Kengne and her family were uprooted by relentless floods that destroyed their home and belongings in Northwest Cameroon. These early experiences of loss and displacement left a deep impression, fueling her determination to understand and combat the forces behind such disasters.

Starting with small community projects, Gislaine educated neighborhood children on waste management and recycling, showing how local actions could mitigate flooding by reducing plastic pollution. Her passion grew through opportunities with organizations like Open Dreams and NESDA-CA, where she worked on policy reviews and biodiversity preservation.

At Ashesi University, Gislaine joined the African Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI), co-authored a guidebook on climate mobility, and helped draft the African Youth Statement on Climate Mobility presented at COP27*, advocating for migration as a dignified climate adaptation strategy. During the recent COP29, another African Youth Statement on Climate Mobility was presented, where she carried out consultation with youths in different regions of Africa. Her engineering education and a course on quantifying environmental impacts equipped her with data-driven problem-solving skills, which she applied to challenges like plastic pollution and renewable energy.

*27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

These skills translated in her impactful presentation at the United Nations (pictured below), where she emphasized the pivotal role of African youth in climate adaptation, proposing solutions such as mobile homes for disaster victims, solar-powered irrigation for drought prone areas, and decentralized renewable energy systems for displaced communities. She called for establishing research hubs to tap into Africa's renewable energy potential.

"In the future, I would like to be in a position where I can influence ethical, impactful policies in the field of renewable energy-especially solar energy-in Africa, as we make this transition," Gislaine says.



Scan me

Climate Mobility Guidebook co-authored by Gislaine Kengne



"For me, an investment in Ashesi is an investment in creating real change. It's the difference between investing in one organization or investing in an incubator that will generate thousands of people who will go on to change the world."

Sangu Delle
Board Chair, Ashesi University



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