

# American University of Nigeria Joins the Engagement Scholarship Consortium

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) board of directors today accepted the membership application of the American University of Nigeria (AUN), making it the Consortium's sixteenth member institution. The AUN is the first African university to join the ESC and its membership is effective immediately.

The American University of Nigeria was founded by former Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar in Yola, Nigeria. Students began attending the AUN in 2005 and the University currently enrolls approximately 1,400 students and has a faculty of 85 members. According to the vision statement of its June, 2011 strategic plan: "The American University of Nigeria seeks to become a great center of learning and research for Nigeria and West Africa, and a catalyst for development in the entire area. In the words of its Founder, it sees its role as a 'Development University.' It will thus be a university honoring the traditional roles of repository and transmitter of culture and knowledge, and become a center for the creation of new knowledge. But it will also see as its focus **the practical role that a great university must play in the development of a great nation**" (emphasis added).

The ESC is composed of universities that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity. Organized as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, the Consortium is actively seeking to expand its membership to include state/public and private higher education institutions from across the U.S., Canada, and the world.

In a message to AUN president Margee M. Ensign, ESC president Hiram E. Fitzgerald welcomed the University and indicated that the Consortium looks forward to working with the AUN to expand the ESC's presence throughout Nigeria and Africa.

ESC member institutions collaborate in the development and delivery of programs and educational resources that support the creation and advancement of knowledge underlying successful engagement scholarship initiatives in higher education. ESC's next annual meeting will be held at the University of Alabama on September 30-October 3, 2012.

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The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is committed to excellence in the scholarship and practice of engagement locally and globally. The ESC has articulated a broad scholarly agenda that includes:

- Researching and studying throughout the world, the scholarship of engagement
- Facilitating international cooperation among individuals concerned with promoting conditions that will bring about engaged scholarship as a criterion influencing higher education faculty performance evaluations

- Encouraging the realization that the scholarship of engagement is a critical aspect of university responsibility
- Promoting education, research and study of the effects of engaged scholarship on community-campus partnerships
- Promoting research and study of the impacts of community-campus partnerships
- Conducting meetings, workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences and congresses domestically and throughout the world
- Disseminating research (original, basic and applied) from a wide variety of disciplines on the impact of campus-community partnerships
- Discussing and sharing questions, problems, issues, information and theories regarding campus-community partnerships
- Advancing the study of campus-community partnerships and educating the public on effective programs for community change
- Publishing and communicating through print and electronic media the proceedings (including abstracts and scientific papers) of the aforementioned workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences or congresses
- Publishing and disseminating research on the scholarship of engagement through newsletters, books, monographs, reports, studies and periodicals, in any language, and also to make the foregoing available through electronic media

Additional information is available, at: <http://outreachscholarship.org>.