



ANNUAL REPORT

"Africa is a key region for higher education. We have the opportunity to deepen Northeastern's presence in Africa and further empower our global network."

- Joseph E. Aoun, President













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Introducing Northeastern's Africa Global Initiative

by Hazel Sive

Dean, College of Science, and Chair, Africa Global Initiative

Dear Northeastern Community and Friends,

It is my pleasure to share the first annual report of the <u>Northeastern University Africa Global Initiative</u> (<u>AGI</u>). This new collaborative effort is building strong, mutually beneficial connections between our wonderful university and outstanding African partners. Through the AGI, we will increase African student enrollment in Northeastern programs and promote existing or new partnerships with academic institutions, alumni, and employers to develop important research, educational, and experiential opportunities.

The African continent includes 54 countries with a predominantly young population, each with its own ambitious economic goals. Top universities, dynamic industries, and a vibrant entrepreneurship culture characterize many African countries. Northeastern's excellence as a global and innovative R1 research university, coupled with its unique focus on experiential education, matches the vital African landscape and poises us for expanded and important engagement across key regions in Africa.

Northeastern African alumni include leaders in research, government, and industry—and faculty and students already engage in programs in several African countries. As a native South African, with undergraduate degrees from Wits University, Johannesburg, the Northeastern Africa Global Initiative is close to my heart. Although I built my career in the U.S. and was honored to join Northeastern as <u>dean of the College of Science</u> in June 2020, I have deep African connections in higher education. It is my privilege to Chair the Northeastern Africa Global Initiative, collaborating with faculty, alumni, staff, and students, as we construct, and build success in each aspect of the AGI.

In just one year of existence, the AGI has accomplished a great deal. More students from Africa joined us in 2021 than ever before, and a robust scholarship offer for Masters students is now in place. The AGI can receive donations through a fund that will support both incoming students from Africa, as well as research, events and student-led initiatives on the continent. I hope this report will inspire you to join us.

This is the beginning of what we plan for the future of Northeastern's African engagement. As we move forward, activities of the AGI will seamlessly connect with our <u>new academic plan</u> to make groundbreaking contributions to the Northeastern University Global Network.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to what AGI will accomplish in 2022! With warm regards,

Hazel Sive PhD Chair, Africa Global Initiative 2021

In Review

In January 2021, as the world was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, Northeastern University launched the Africa Global Initiative: an ambitious, intra-university effort to strengthen our university's ties with the continent. The AGI aims to:

- Increase the number of students enrolling at Northeastern from Africa through a robust scholarship
- Raise awareness of the opportunities in Africa for our students and graduates, and our research communities
- Increase outbound mobility to Africa, by bolstering our experiential opportunities

On January 3, 2021, Mo Moro, a second-year master's degree candidate in the College of Professional Studies, started his co-op as the AGI's first full-time project manager. In Mo's first six months with the AGI, he enlisted more than 40 Northeastern students, alumni, faculty, and parents with ties to Africa for the working group. Today, they—the university stakeholders of the AGI—collaborate on strategy while sharing their contacts on the ground. South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Zambia have emerged as key partner countries for Northeastern.

In March 2021, Dean Hazel Sive of the College of Science, an alumna of Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, agreed to chair the initiative. The following document reviews the AGI's accomplishments in its first year of action and proposes paths for expansion in 2022. In just one year's time, Africa has become one of the highly visible areas of engagement at Northeastern University.

We are very proud to share this report with you.





Enrollment Management

A Banner Year for African Students

Twenty-two African nations were represented at Northeastern University in the fall 2021 student cohort, as symbolized by these flags. Undergraduate enrollment from Africa rose by 17 percent, and graduate student enrollment from Africa rose by 38 percent from the previous year—with the strongest cohort coming from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda.

Northeastern's teams participated in undergraduate virtual fairs and 20 graduate virtual fairs on the African continent, and developed new relationships with African institutions and partners.

Enrollment Management and the respective schools and colleges have partnered with University Advancement and Alumni Relations to launch the <u>African Students Access</u>

<u>Scholarship</u>. The fund offers partial and full scholarships to graduate students from Africa as part of the regular admissions process.



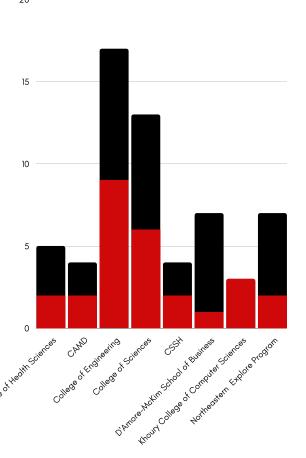
Undergraduate Applications and Admissions



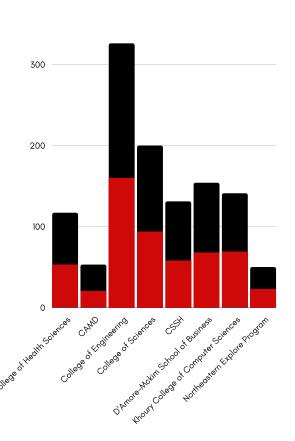


In fall 2020, virtual recruitment in Africa was extensive, with admissions officers engaging with more than 2,200 students across 33 countries. Some virtual high school visits were conducted with high schools in Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa. There was an 18 percent increase in undergraduate applications from Africa between fall 2021 and fall 2022, and a 55 percent increase in applications from Africa over the last decade.

Growth since fall 2021 was most notable in North Africa (up 46 percent), East Africa (up 25 percent) and West Africa (up 8 percent). Countries that sent Northeastern the most applications for fall 2022 include Ghana (1), Ethiopia (2), Morocco and Nigeria (3), Egypt and Kenya (4), and South Africa (5).



Fall 2020 - Matriculation
 Fall 2021 - Matriculation



Fall 2020 - Applications Fall 2021 - Application

Graduate Applications and Admissions

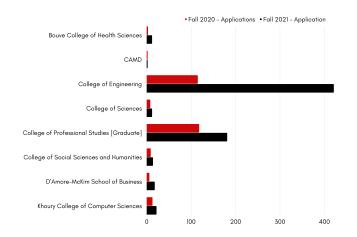


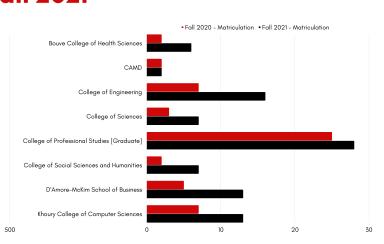
Virtual Fairs

The International Enrollment Management (IEM) team participated in more than 20 virtual student engagement activities in Africa, and interacted with over 3,000 prospective graduate students.

IEM also launched a weekly virtual counseling session for African graduate students, where they can talk to an admissions counselor regarding program offerings, admission requirements, and more.

Applications and Matriculations in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021





Graduate Student Enrollment

We saw a 38 percent increase in graduate enrollment in fall 2021 compared to the previous year.

The African Student Access Reach Scholarship, offered jointly by Enrollment Management and the colleges and schools to lower the economic barriers to attendance for students, has been launched for spring 2022.



AFRICAN STUDENTS ACCESS SCHOLARSHIPS



The Africa Global Initiative's first-year goals included focusing on recruiting in Africa to increase enrollment numbers from the region. To support these efforts, Enrollment Management, University Advancement, and the colleges and schools have created the **African Graduate Students Access Scholarship** to reduce the economic barriers for graduate students from Africa to attend Northeastern.

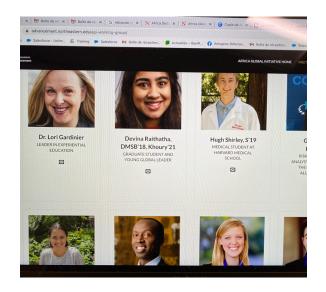
This initiative will provide scholarships to students who have graduated from African universities with an outstanding academic record; who have been accepted into a full-time master's degree program offered by any of the colleges and schools at Northeastern's U.S. campuses; and who the university particularly wants to recruit. Northeastern will offer these scholarships for the prospective students for the duration of the degree program into which they have been accepted, provided the student maintains a good academic standing. Two types of scholarships will be offered:

- 1. **The Reach Scholarship**—Each college or school will offer qualifying students a 50 percent tuition scholarship.
- 2. **Full Access Scholarship**—Each of the colleges and schools will offer one qualifying student a full-tuition scholarship. University Advancement will also raise philanthropic dollars to provide a scholarship to students for their additional cost of attendance as published by Northeastern's Office of Global Services and Student Financial Services.

northeastern.edu/graduate/african-students-access-scholarship/

University Advancement

CONNECTING THE AFRICA GLOBAL INITIATIVE WITH THE WIDER NORTHEASTERN COMMUNITY



Building the AGI Working Group

The Africa Global Initiative is supported by a 50+ member working group composed of students, faculty, staff, and alumni with ties with Africa—whether they were born there, or made Africa the region where they work or conduct research.

The group meets monthly to review objectives, share ideas and updates, and decide on next steps, under the direction of Dean Hazel Sive of the College of Science.



A Website, a Quarterly Newsletter, and a Partnership with News@Northeastern

The AGI website offers information on our goals, partners, and stakeholders at Northeastern, as well as upcoming events. It is a resource for students and all members of the university community.

The AGI also shares a quarterly newsletter to more than 2,000 members of Northeastern's community. To sign up, please write to a.musa@northeastern.edu.

News@Northeastern, the university's primary source of news and information, is a key partner in our communication efforts.

NEWS@ NORTHEASTERN

A strategic partner for the Africa
Global Initiative,
News@Northeastern significantly
increased its coverage of the
university's engagement with the
continent in 2021

#1

An article by Northeastern's Peter Ramjug about South African students' reactions to the Omicron travel ban trended #1 on Google searches for that topic on its day of publication 15+

articles in News@Northeastern featured Africa Global Initiative working group members and their achievements

AGI Events in 2021

While the COVID-19 pandemic hindered organizing in-person events, Zoom and Facebook Live programming allowed us to reach out to new partners and be creative in different ways. Our first event, in March 2021, focused on three impactful women from our African community.









Ansell
CEO and Founder,
Zara Tours, Tanzania



Kasanga National Chairpersor Kenya Private Schoo Association

Dr. Kiran Radia CEO and Pathologist,

Women Who Empower Africa— March 25, 2021

Young Global Leader and AGI Working Group member Devina Raithatha hosted a conversation with three female entrepreneurs from Kenya and Tanzania, who lead businesses and organizations in health, education and tourism. What does it mean to be a female entrepreneur in East Africa today? How can female entrepreneurs drive change in the region? The conversations allowed us to hear from Zainab Ansell, CEO and founder, Zara Tours, Tanzania; Mutheu Kasanga, national chairperson, Kenya Private Schools Association; and Dr. Kiran Radia, CEO and pathologist, Pathcare, Kenya.



Africa Day—May 25, 2021

AGI hosted College of Science Professor Dr. Jonathan Mboyo Esole, for a special conversation on Africa Day. Professor Esole discussed his journey as a groundbreaking scientist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, his work in support of COVID-19 responders in Central Africa, and his commitment to promoting excellence in research across Africa.

Featured in the series was Dean Hazel Sive, College of Science and chair of the Africa Global Initiative, as well as representatives of the AGI project. Mohammed Moro, a Ghanian and the project manager of Africa Global Initiative, delivered an outstanding facilitation of the event.

AGI Events in 2021



Dr. Motumisi Tawana, Consul General of South Africa— November 18, 2021

Dr. Tawana, the consul general of South Africa in New York City, visited campus in person and gave a conference on South Africa's bilateral relations with the U.S. and its role on the multilateral scene, with a focus on climate change issues. He was introduced on stage by Ambassador Janet Garvey and Dean Hazel Sive. Ademidun Mary Aibjade, Northeastern student and Working Group member from Nigeria, moderated the talk.



63 likes

naso_nu Thanksgiving dinner came early this year and we hope you're here for it! Join the African community at Northeastern for good food, good people and good... more

November 8, 2021

AGI x NASO Thanksgiving Dinner—November 18, 2021

On the evening of November 18, 2021, the Africa Global Initiative partnered with Northeastern's African Student Organization (NASO) and the John D. O'Bryant Center to host the first African Dinner at Northeastern. The event was attended by more than 90 students. East African and West African food was served while NASO and AGI representatives gave presentations of events to come.





Launching the AGI Fund

Northeastern's Young Global Leaders Pledge the First \$50,000

In November 2021, Northeastern's Young Global Leaders (YGL), a group of philanthropic-minded international alumni who are President Joseph E. Aoun's go-to representatives of their home countries, announced a \$50,000 gift to start the **Africa Global Initiative (AGI) Fund.** The fund will support events like Northeastern's first Africa Business Conference slated for February 16, 2022, and student-led projects within the framework of the initiative. Their gift to the AGI will inspire and enable many more.

"We strive to be a catalyst in furthering Northeastern's global agenda, while also expanding our awareness of international affairs. After Ayo Oyebanjo, a fellow and inaugural YGL member based in Lagos, Nigeria, shared and presented his passion for the AGI with the group at large last year, it became clear that funding the AGI is a unique opportunity to support both missions," explained Michael Winston at the YGL reunion in London.

"Our goal today is to chart a pathway of engagement with Africa. Africa is a continent of growth and innovation. It is home to many of Northeastern students, faculty and leaders. We are excited to build mutually empowering relationships with our African partners." President Joseph E. Aoun



Launching the AGI Fund

A Message from Subodh Chanrai, P'20, P'23 Trustee, Northeastern University

Northeastern's Africa Global Initiative was started one year ago. It aims to increase our university's connection with the continent.

Our ambition is to convince more bright African minds that Northeastern is the right place to complete their education. We are growing an ambitious scholarship program; promoting collaboration with academic partners in Africa to work on joint projects and address shared challenges; and bolstering the number of experiential opportunities for our students in Africa, with the assistance of corporate, industrial, and nonprofit partners.

I am a trustee of Northeastern University, and have worked and invested in Western Africa for a quarter of a century as chair of FarEast Mercantile, a business with significant interests throughout Africa. In my personal and professional lives, I have seen the value and impact of trusted partnerships and the progress they can deliver. In Africa, we can truly build strong, mutually beneficial relationships.

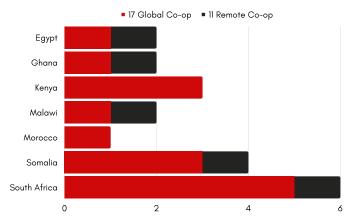


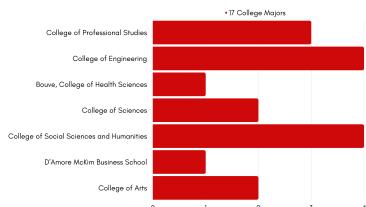
Employer Engagement and Career Design

During the 2021 calendar year, 456 students engaged in global work experiences, with 17 students practicing onsite and virtual global co-ops located in nine African countries.

Since 2020, the global co-op program has remained steady during the COVID-19 pandemic. Northeastern students—eager, resilient and convinced of the value of global work—integrated learning experiences, pursued a variety of placements with nonprofits, government organizations, energy multinationals, and research labs.

Northeastern's partners, a vast array of employers, academic institutions, and agency partners remained engaged during this unprecedented time for student mobility and offered exceptional exposure to industries and cultures. Although the traditional co-op model involves onsite traveling, living, and working, the remote (virtual) options met both the employer organizational needs as well as student learning and practicing standards. It is now widely accepted that these new models of engagement, hybrid, remote, and onsite work will continue beyond the pandemic era.





A Co-Op Employer in Kenya

"Ever since **Better Me** started accepting students from Northeastern University, we have had a wonderful experience with well-trained professionals. We truly believe that this professionalism is a reflection of the training they receive from the university. These students continue to display a high level of specialization, creativity, and work ethic that is crucial in addressing the issues linked to community development in Kenya.

In recent months, these students have been involved in designing and implementing a youth-focused character development program in Kenya for young people struggling with multiple challenges resulting from COVID-19. Through the efforts of these students, the program has evolved from offering this support to 500 young people to targeting more than 5,000 individuals in different parts of the country.

We look forward to continuing this partnership."

—Thomas Ogalo, Volunteer Coordinator Better Me | betterme.org





A Co-Op Employer in Hargeisa, Somaliland



SCOTT KENNEDY
CEO, CLEARSKY POWER
HARGEISA, SOMALILAND

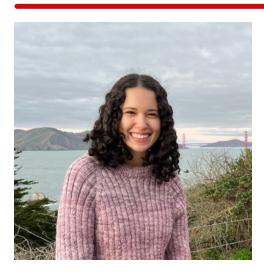


"I had the pleasure of working with Kevin Breen and Aryan Jain during the spring term of 2021 through Northeastern's Global Co-op Program. Both were first year engineering students who worked remotely for my company **ClearSky Power**, a solar energy company based in Hargeisa, Somaliland, that designs, installs, and maintains on and off-grid solar energy systems for businesses, institutions, and farms. Our aim is to promote sustainable economic development through access to affordable and reliable electricity from renewable sources.

Even though they were remote, Kevin and Aryan had a great learning experience and were able to contribute substantially to the team. Their work was focused in two areas: solar system design, and remote monitoring and troubleshooting. Neither had prior experience working in solar energy, but both were highly motivated to learn new skills and tools. Since our company utilizes online design and monitoring software, along with various collaboration tools for daily work, they were able directly engage in the projects even while based in the U.S. Examples of their tasks included optimizing solar system sizing to minimize costs and maximize savings for our customers, reviewing and analyzing system performance data to generate reports and troubleshoot system faults, generating distribution layout diagrams for rural mini-grids, and supporting generation of project bill of materials documents.

The cultural exposure of the co-op was more limited as they were remote. However, daily interactions with the team in Hargeisa and the opportunity to design solar energy systems based on local environmental and market data opened their eyes to the conditions and context of a country with which they were previously unfamiliar. It's important that students move beyond a one-dimensional understanding of Africa. Working with private companies, immersed in the daily challenges and opportunities that are unique to each sector and location, provides a rare chance to deepen their understanding."

Students Speak



"Over the course of my co-op with the African Center for Community Investment in Health (ACCIH), I split my time between Nairobi and Baringo County, Kenya. I helped with mobile outreach clinics for the local population in East Pokot, and worked with health care providers to improve patient care at these clinics and in the local hospital. Alongside the other co-op student, I conducted independent research to better understand health systems challenges and patient behavior in the Visceral Leishmaniasis program".

-Sarah Weihl, '22, Human Services



"For my first co-op, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the VA Corps program in Cape Town, South Africa. For my second co-op, I was looking for another global experience before I graduated. As a freshman at Northeastern, I was part of the N.U.in program in Italy where I learned about Italian culture as well as healthcare service disparities in Italy. This experience sparked my interest in global health and medical interventions, which made me switch my major from musical theatre to biology.

While the co-op was remote due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, I not only learned about global health research in South Africa but also immersed myself in South African culture through weekly cultural sessions from cuisine to music (my favourite cuisine to learn about was *Braii*, barbeque which sounded delicious!).

From my co-op experience in Africa, I have grown to love the culture and beauty of Cape Town while learning about public health issues facing South Africa. As I plan for life after Northeastern in the medical field, this co-op gave me a glimpse into the public health sector and I hope to make an impact in the public health field as a physician in the future."

-Andrew Chang, '21, Biology

Students Speak



"During my co-op in Kenya, I worked with a public health NGO, the African Center for Community Investment in Health, to support the Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) program at Chemolingot Sub-County Hospital by digitizing health records and assisting community health volunteers at mobile outreach clinics. From these public health activities, we gathered epidemiological data that will be used to understand the burden of VL and other diseases in the region."

-Catherine Wenger, '22, International Affairs



"After I received my bachelor's in political science, I was looking for a master's program in international relations. I heard that Northeastern was one of the best universities in the United States with amazing programs that give students the opportunity to learn on the field. Northeastern would guarantee their prospective students support with experiential learning, as learning and practicing on the field was the principal argument. It worked, they got me, and I was going to be a Husky! I enrolled in the global studies program at the College of Professional Studies.

After completing my first year I went home to Ivory Coast, where I secured an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the division in charge of the Americas and Caribbean. It was amazing to work and learn with real diplomats. That co-op gave me the opportunity to see how everything I was learning in a classroom was relevant in the real world, how the global studies I was doing at Northeastern were pertinent to international relations. At that point, even though it was for a limited period of time, I was part of a larger community, and it was an amazing experience. I was able to earn credits from my experience which is a huge benefit, for that's the reason why I joined Northeastern University in the first place.

Immersed in the diplomatic world, I was a Northeastern ambassador. It was with great pride that I explained to my mentors and supervisors what Northeastern is, about the co-op program and how great it is to be a part of it. Given my own positive experience, I believe the university will gain a wealth of opportunities by considering working with more African partners. Collaborating with the region will only strengthen the position of the school as a major actor and leader in the field of global education."

—Guiou Ouattara, '22, Global Studies and International Relations

Global Experience Office

The Global Experience Office envisions that all Northeastern learners have a transformative global experience that allows them to develop a global mindset and a commitment to ethical global impact. In a year of unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our students remained resilient and went on experiences that proved to be enriching for them in all ramifications.

Only one Dialogue of Civilization took place in 2021 in Africa: Dr. Vanessa Johnson led a group of 12 students to Ghana for a three week experience.



Our 2021 Dialogue of Civilizations to Ghana

Dr. Vanessa Johnson, EdDBouvé College of Health Sciences

This year, in spite of COVID-19 being a continued threat to the world, the Dialogue of Civilizations to Ghana was a success. Our students were kept safe thanks to several factors.

First, the International Safety Office at Northeastern issued very detailed and country specific, COVID protocols that we adhered to throughout our stay in Ghana. Second, the in-country (Ghana) team that I work with each year would retrieve any information we needed to include in revising the protocols. I was on the phone, sending emails, and texting with them much more than usual and it helped tremendously. Eddie Tetteh, who led the in-country coordinators, made sure that we had all the supplies needed for the students' safety upon our arrival in Ghana.

I also want to thank our excellent Dialogue advisor and teaching assistant, Kyle Robertson, who was not only instrumental in supporting the mission of the Dialogue, but in making sure that students abided by protocols. He related well to the students, and they respected his leadership.

Ghana itself played a key role in keeping our students safe: The country's protocols aligned well with most of those in the U.S., so we seamlessly adjusted to what was expected. We could not enter a building, participate in a lecture or most cultural activities without masks, washing our hands, applying sanitizer, and having our temperatures checked. The students who participated in the Dialogue played an important role in their own safety while in Ghana. They never rejected any requirements that were made, in accordance with the protocols, and when some of the activities did not require us to wear masks, etc., they would do so anyway. They made it easy to keep them safe while still showing the same level of enthusiasm as students who attended previous Dialogues.



Finally, the people of Ghana themselves kept us safe. Many who we engaged with wore masks. The infection rates in Ghana that summer were significantly lower than in the States. Someone I spoke with said that this was because Ghana is God's country, which I believe to be not far from the truth.



AGI Working Group

Southern Africa Region Working Group

Hazel Sive, Dean, College of Science, AGI Chair Kaleem Ahmid, '21, South Africa Anna Butler, '14, USA Thembi Chandiwana, '04, South Africa Lefevre Duane, Faculty, USA Jenna Garchar, Staff, USA Sipho Havuma, '94, South Africa Marina Markot, Staff, USA Aspa Papanastasiou, Staff, Greece

East Africa Region Working Group

Keith Bagley, Faculty, USA
Jonnathan Esole Mboyo, Faculty, DRC
Holly Foskett, Staff, USA
Caroline Guény-Mentré, Staff, France
Zoltan Gluck, Faculty, USA
Katherine Luongo, Faculty, USA
John Mwangi, '21, Kenya
Gilbert Nyaga, Faculty, Kenya
Tevin Otieno, '17, Kenya
Devina Raithatha, '22, Kenya
Hugh Shirley, '19, USA
Lidet Tulahun, '11, Ethiopia
Richard Wamai, Faculty, Kenya

North Africa Region Working Group

Peter Fraunholtz, Faculty, USA Ghital Sabil, '20, Morocco Denis Sullivan, Faculty, USA

West Africa Region Working Group

Gordon Adomdza, Faculty, Ghana Mary Ajibade, '23, Nigeria Janet Dewan, Faculty, USA Maxwell Donkoh, '14, Ghana Roland Fomundam, '10, Cameroun Marc Fuller, Faculty, USA Vanessa Johnson, Faculty, USA Bassel Jounblat, '18, Lebanon Lee Makowski, Faculty, USA William Miles, Faculty, USA Mohammed Moro, '21, Ghana Alain Ngounou, '24, Cameroun Richard Nzekwu, '17, Nigeria John Olawepo, Faculty, Nigeria Ayo Oyebanjo, '13, Nigeria Adwoa Sefah, '22, Ghana Alex Tarzihkan, '18, USA Elvis K. Tiburu, Faculty, Ghana Erika Wheeler, '22, USA Ramzi Yamusah, '14, Ghana

AGI Partners

Our accomplishments in 2021 could not have been possible without the generous support of these organizations:

News@Northeastern



Northeastern African Student Organization



Africana Studies Program



Acknowledgments



Hazel SiveDean, College of Science, and
Chair, Africa Global Initiative



Caroline Guény-Mentré
Director, Global Market Development,
University Advancement



Aspa PapanastasiouAssociate Director, Global Employer
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