African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



The Transformative Power of Innovation

In September 2026, **Mary-Brenda Akoda ’14 (Nigeria)** became the first woman and the youngest person to win The Nigeria Prize for Science and Innovation, one of Africa’s most prestigious science awards, with a prize of $100,000. In 10 of the prize’s 22 years, including the year before she won, the judges gave no award because no entry met the standard.

She won for GenScan AI, software that turns a 20-minute MRI scan into a 2-minute one with better image quality, using machines hospitals already own. Africa has roughly one MRI scanner per million people, compared with about 37 per million in the United States, and a new high-field scanner costs more than $1 million. GenScan adds capacity to the machines already in place. Mary-Brenda started it because she believes no one should suffer or die from a delayed diagnosis.

The technology grew out of her research at Imperial College London, where she earned an MRes in AI and Machine Learning with distinction as a Google DeepMind Scholar. She also led AI research on diabetic retinopathy detection with ophthalmologists at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. GenScan has been validated on 8,800 medical images and is moving toward clinical use with healthcare partners in the UK, the US, and Africa.





OUR *MISSION*

We seek to transform Africa by identifying, developing and connecting a powerful network of ethical and effective young leaders who will work together to achieve lasting peace and shared prosperity.

OUR *VALUES*

Integrity
We are people of our word, with the courage to do what is right.

Curiosity
We challenge the status quo and take the initiative to pursue new ideas.

Humility
We are thankful for opportunities and are aware of our limitations.

Compassion
We empathize with and care for those around us.

Diversity
We respect all people and believe that difference should be celebrated.

Excellence
We set high standards for our own achievement and celebrate the achievements of others.

FOUNDING *BELIEFS*

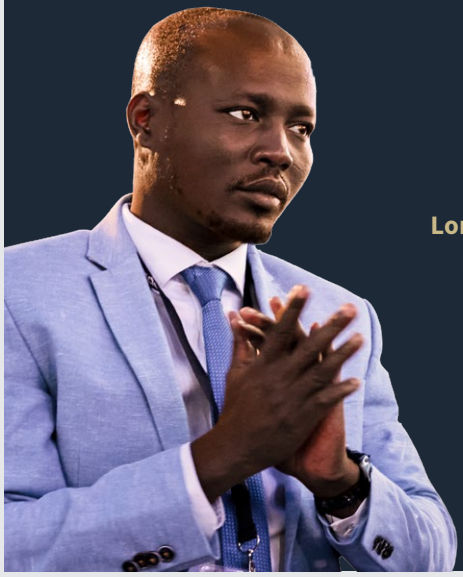
ALA was founded on five convictions about how change happens in Africa and who makes it happen. They shape how we select students, how we teach them, and what we ask of them after graduation.



Address the Underlying Causes of Problems

Treat root causes, not symptoms, to create lasting positive change.

Many women in Côte d'Ivoire run businesses in informal markets without the digital tools, data, or access to investors they need to grow. **Nadine Zoro '10 (Côte d'Ivoire)** has spent more than a decade closing those gaps. She co-founded Impact Hub Abidjan and the Côte d'Ivoire Business Angel Network, and she leads DigiFemmes, which has trained more than 25,000 young women to use digital skills and data to build stronger businesses. In 2024, DigiFemmes shifted from an internationally funded program to a local Ivorian association, placing its future in the hands of the community it serves.



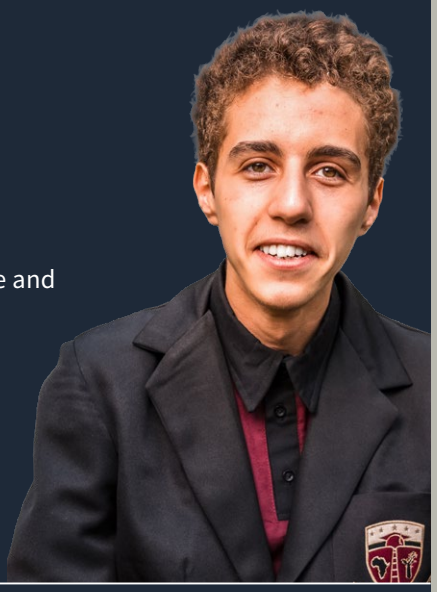
The Power of One

Individuals catalyze the actions of large groups and transform societies.

Lorem Aminathia '08 (South Sudan) spent much of his childhood in Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya. Scholarships carried him to Alliance High School, then to ALA, Yale, and the Schwarzman Scholars program in China. He is the founder and CEO of Kinyeti Academy, which identifies South Sudan's most academically promising young people, ages 10 to 18, and prepares them for the world's most competitive universities. Lorem is now opening the same path for other young South Sudanese that scholarships once opened for him.

The Power of Youth

Young people can dream big, take action, and change the world.



Louay Cherif ’26 (Tunisia) lost his sight at age nine and taught himself braille and assistive technology. When he was told that blind students in Tunisia could not study computer science, he worked with community leaders to change the rule and met Tunisia’s president in 2024. His efforts helped open the computer science track to blind students for the first time. In 2025, he launched the Arab Blind Coders Program, which teaches Python free of charge to blind Arabic-speaking students. Louay is ALA’s first blind student.



Entrepreneurship is Fundamental to Growth

Look beyond existing constraints and pursue opportunities to create value.

In rural Tanzania, most people carry basic phones, and the nearest clinic can be 30 kilometers away. **Emmanuel Samwel ’18 (Tanzania)** built Primetel Health around those realities. Community health workers go door to door, a dial-in service lets anyone screen themselves or reach a psychologist without internet access, and a licensed clinic provides primary care. More than 45,000 people in Monduli District now have a way into care that did not exist before.

The Need for Pan-African Cooperation

Collaboration will stimulate growth and development across the continent.



Across much of Africa, hiring still runs on WhatsApp messages and spreadsheets. Classmates **Dumebi Akukwe ’16 (Nigeria)** and **Gorata Nomasonto Sepopa ’16 (Botswana)** saw this firsthand while recruiting for companies in several countries. In 2024, Dumebi founded HireRail, a platform where African companies and hiring agencies track candidates in one place and use AI to review applications, cutting the time spent on each candidate by 75%. Dumebi leads product, and Gorata leads partnerships and expansion. Today they work with companies in four countries.

Since ALA opened its doors in 2008, the need for ethical and entrepreneurial African leadership has only grown more pressing.

By 2050, nearly one billion young Africans will be seeking jobs, dignified livelihoods, functional infrastructure, quality healthcare, and reliable food systems. The next three decades will determine whether the continent realizes a demographic dividend or faces deeper crises.

This moment is pivotal not only for Africa but for the world.

A single thread runs through the solutions to Africa's greatest challenges: ethical, entrepreneurial, and transformative leaders who can navigate complexity and inspire collective progress.

Our work has never been more important.

CORNELIA KRUAH-TOGBA '08 (Liberia)



Cornelia Kruah-Togba became Liberia's Minister of Youth and Sports in February 2026. At 35, she is the youngest person ever to hold the post. A member of ALA's first graduating class, she built her career in government, serving as Deputy Minister of State for Administration and in senior roles at the Ministries of Education and Public Works. As minister, she is focused on building youth centers and expanding vocational training, with the goal that by 2035, every young Liberian will have a path to pursue their ambitions.

UMAR DANILO ALY '17 (Mozambique)



Umar Danilo Aly is an Umholi we Africa Fellow in Mozambique's Ministry of Youth and Sports, where he supports the country's youth development agenda through policy research, program coordination, and work with partners inside and outside government. Before the fellowship, he worked across government, education, and enterprise, with roles spanning institutional planning and support for youth-led businesses.

A New Generation in Government

When most people hear the word "leadership," they picture someone in public office. ALA sees leadership in every sector, but the stakes in government are especially high. Public institutions decide how resources are managed, which services reach citizens, and what opportunities communities can access. Yet young people remain underrepresented in those decisions.

ALA alumni are finding different routes into public service. One is the Umholi we Africa Fellowship, which ALA launched in 2023. The fellowship places ALA alumni, African Leadership University graduates, and Mastercard Foundation Scholars in full-time roles alongside senior public officials for up to 18 months.

Fellows serve as special advisors, chiefs of staff, and technical advisors in ministries, parliaments, and continental institutions such as the African Union. They support policy, planning, and communications, with mentorship throughout their placements. The fellowship is now recruiting its fifth cohort, which will bring the total to more than 50 fellows. It is generously supported by the **Efrusy Family Foundation**, the **World Gold Council**, and the **Mastercard Foundation**.

Other alumni have entered public service on their own and taken on greater responsibility over time. Both routes let alumni learn by doing inside the institutions that shape people's lives.



EXECUTIVE *LETTER*

Friends,

On September 4, the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to redefine the world map. While the Mercator projection was practical for navigation, it distorted the size of the African continent, minimizing its scale while exaggerating the size of northern landmasses. The Equal Earth projection, which the resolution adopts as a preferred global map, corrects this distortion.

I am of two minds about this news. On the one hand, symbols matter. That the prevailing projection of the planet dangerously misrepresents one continent is a matter worth attending to. It matters, too, that this misrepresentation aligns, if only accidentally, with how Africa and Africans are regarded in the minds of many. If we change our symbols, perhaps we can change our beliefs and, through that, change our behavior. Perhaps.

On the other hand, I am underwhelmed. At a time when the legitimacy of multilateral institutions is so undermined, when the redirection of resources is costing lives, and when unprecedented humanitarian crises abound, it is hard to be overjoyed by a paper victory. To borrow Korzybski's famous aphorism, "the map is not the territory."

What we can rescue from this moment is the reframing: a recognition that our definitions shape our goals. Our beliefs, conscious or otherwise, underpin our aspirations. What matters more than how we see the size of the continent on the map is the way we understand its people.

Here again, the figures are familiar, if not as memetic. Africa is home to the world's fastest-growing population. Already the youngest continent, Africa is on track to become the most populous by the end of the century. Much sooner than that, before 2050, Africa will be home to the world's largest workforce. While most developed economies are aging quickly, Africa abounds with youth and human energy.

I tend to view this trend as a well of potential; it is a bias toward optimism that comes from my work with young people. That said, it would not be unreasonable to feel some anxiety about this explosive wave of humanity. If most African economies are struggling to find enough dignified and productive work for their youth today, why should we believe that tomorrow's graduates will fare any better? Our physical and economic infrastructure is already buckling and bursting at the seams. How could we possibly manage more?

Joe Studwell presents a somewhat surprising antidote to this anxiety. In *How Africa Works*, Studwell seeks to repeat the explanatory success of his 2013 classic, *How Asia Works*, turning his attention to our reprojected continent. He begins with Africa's developmental trajectory, asking, as many have before, why African development indicators have lagged behind Asia's. His answer is strikingly simple: population density.

Africa's population density today is close to Asia's in 1950. Only by 2100, by which time five of the world's ten most populous nations will be in Africa, will Africa's population density match Asia's today. Density matters for a host of developmental reasons. Studwell writes:

> "A population of 1.5 billion today, versus 230 million in 1950, offers Africa what economists call agglomeration economies… The costs of public goods such as infrastructure are greatly reduced per person, markets are more numerous and much larger, the supply of labour and skills improves and the division of labour increases, information and production technologies accumulate and people are more connected and able to share resources and hence more able to find collective means to create economic value."

Rather than leaving us simply hopeful about Africa's demographic growth, this framing gives us the mechanism through which to anticipate the dividend.

We anchor our belief about the future in an understanding of the past. Belief and understanding are powerful, but they are insufficient for change. If we are to arrive in a future of abundant human flourishing, we must make plans and take action.

Starting from this hopeful reframing, Studwell's book-length analysis concludes in a familiar way: there is no panacea for development. Africa's diverse developmental trajectories will be charted by leaders working collaboratively. The work will be difficult and fraught with failure. The result will be an unprecedented journey of human upliftment.

African development has already achieved the unprecedented. Between 1960 and 1980, Africa delivered the fastest expansion of formal schooling the world has ever seen. While the points of departure were abysmal, the momentum was sustained.

> "From 1960 to 1980, primary enrolment increased from 36 per cent to 63 per cent, secondary enrolment from 3 per cent to 13 per cent, and tertiary from almost zero to 1 per cent. 'Nowhere else has a formal education system been created on so broad a scale in so short a time,' concluded the World Bank in 1981."

Of course, there is a great deal to be dissatisfied with in our current educational attainment. Large-scale global assessments suggest that some of our best-performing learners underperform median peers in middle-income countries. African children, especially African girls, have been brought into the classroom en masse. What happens in those classrooms is still woefully inadequate.

This anxiety is heightened when we consider that the most recent PISA results show attainment slipping worldwide. Even in the best-resourced OECD classrooms, we are seeing steep declines in student attainment in math, reading, and science. Analysts connect these worsening outcomes to the deleterious effects of technology and its misuse. African classrooms are not only far behind; they must also scrabble up an unprecedented slippery slope, one that bucks a steady trend of human improvement that has lasted for generations.

While Studwell's developmental argument offers no panacea, it does reveal a golden thread. In every case where African economies have delivered generational gains, they have been enabled by ethical and effective leaders. He writes, "Leadership matters in development… In poor countries, leaders play a defining role because institutions are less developed." And: "[When] there is high-quality leadership, it is striking how quickly Africa's reportedly intractable governance problems can be overcome."

This past year, as in every one of my 14 years at ALA, I have witnessed this effect firsthand. In September, I visited Lagos, arguably Africa's densest concentration of human potential. I met two of our AL for Education Fellows leading schools in contexts that could not be more different. Damilola Okonkwo's KEY Academy serves upper-middle-class families in Lekki. Its fully project-based primary school was recognized earlier this year as one of the most innovative in the world. Thirty minutes away, on the outskirts of Makoko, the world's largest floating slum, Adetomiwa Awofeso is building Scholaride Academy. After authorities leveled the school where she worked overnight, she found a new classroom for her students. She expected 45 on the first day. Almost 80 turned up. These are leaders solving intractable problems.

These are the stories you will read in this report. Entrepreneurs who see abundance where others see poverty. Public servants who see order where others see chaos. Scientists who see solutions where others see scarcity. Leaders working to overcome intractable problems and unleash Africa's development. The UN has changed the map. These leaders are shaping the territory.

With gratitude,



Hatim Eltayeb

Chief Executive Officer

ONE ECOSYSTEM, *MANY PATHWAYS*

Africa's future won't be shaped by one sector or one generation, so in August 2026, ALA hosted the first African Leadership Festival on our Johannesburg campus.

Three communities that usually gather separately came together for one program: Anzisha's young entrepreneurs, Africa Career Networks' young professionals, and the school leaders of AL for Education, joined by alumni from across the continent.

Over three days of sessions, workshops, and fireside chats, the schedule kept them in the same rooms, so a school leader could walk out of a debate on youth employment and straight into a session on backing teenage founders. Delegates said the best part was meeting people they wanted to stay connected to.



400	32	180	4
DELEGATES	COUNTRIES	ORGANIZATIONS	FUNDING PARTNERS

With gratitude to the Mastercard Foundation, the Bezos Family Foundation, the Efrusy Family Foundation, and the Small Foundation.



"The poverty and underdevelopment we see today were designed. And if poverty can be designed, so can prosperity. You are on the front line of that work."

Entrepreneur and education innovator **Rapelang Rabana**, speaking at the African Leadership Festival, urged young leaders to name the uncomfortable truths others step around.

AI FOR *AFRICA*

Learning to Build What the Continent Needs

A new partnership with one of the world's leading AI research institutions.

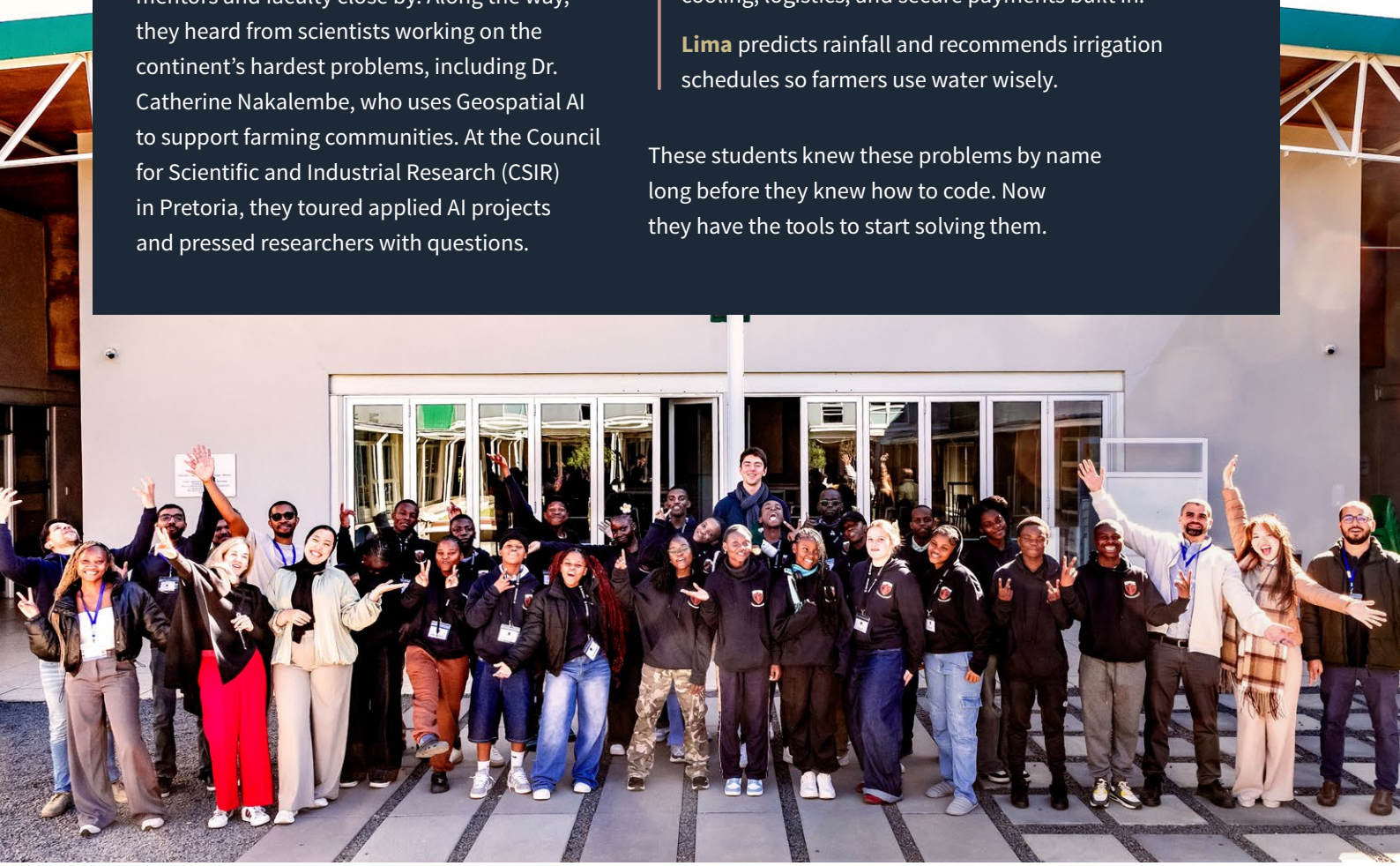
The people who will decide how AI is used are still in high school today. This year, 28 of them from four countries spent two weeks at a residential bootcamp run by ALA and the **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)**.

They started with coding fundamentals and finished by building and deploying their own projects, with MBZUAI graduate students as mentors and faculty close by. Along the way, they heard from scientists working on the continent's hardest problems, including Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, who uses Geospatial AI to support farming communities. At the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, they toured applied AI projects and pressed researchers with questions.

The bootcamp ended with a capstone showcase. Every team built a tool aimed at a problem they had seen up close:

> **Maarifa Learn** brings practical knowledge, guided support, and learning tools together for students and their communities.
>
> **AgroFast** helps smallholder farmers detect crop disease, plan soil use, manage their farms, and track budgets.
>
> **i/mpact** measures a user's environmental footprint and suggests practical ways to shrink it.
>
> **Farm Connect** links farmers directly to buyers, with cooling, logistics, and secure payments built in.
>
> **Lima** predicts rainfall and recommends irrigation schedules so farmers use water wisely.

These students knew these problems by name long before they knew how to code. Now they have the tools to start solving them.





WITHIN *AND BEYOND*

Reclaiming the Narrative

African stories have often been told by outsiders, with little room for the voices of Africans themselves. Today, young Africans are telling those stories their own way, drawing on their cultures and experiences to make films, perform comedy, and challenge the rules that shape their schools and communities.



Najmeddine "Naaj" Harrabi '14 (Tunisia) grew up in an Amazigh village in the mountains of Sidi Bouzid, without electricity or running water. He watched his first TV show on a black-and-white set powered by a car battery. Today, he is a filmmaker and comedian in Los Angeles and the founder of ShepherdBoy Entertainment, which develops indigenous talent from Africa and the Middle East across film, TV, gaming, and virtual reality. After ALA, he studied film and theater at Notre Dame, trained at The Second City in Chicago, interned on Conan, and became a George Lucas Scholar at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. The oral traditions he grew up with shape his stand-up, including his special *Legal Alien*.



Before ALA, **Nicole Babirye '26 (Uganda)** attended a school whose hair rules required girls to conform to European beauty standards rooted in colonial history. She began asking why those rules existed and what they taught students about their own appearance. She surveyed more than 100 classmates and co-created a documentary that persuaded the school's board to let A-Level girls wear their natural hair. Her campaign has since reached more than 100,000 people online. Nicole also founded Mai. Moja, a youth movement of more than 120 members that supports vulnerable communities, and she hopes to build youth hubs across Uganda and, eventually, elsewhere in Africa. For her, changing a school rule is part of a larger goal: helping young people feel confident in themselves and proud of their cultures.

ALA'S *IMPACT*

Around the world, ALA alumni are studying at leading universities on prestigious scholarships, building institutions, and leading across sectors. Wherever they go, they carry ALA's mission, vision, and values with them.



Since 2008, more than 43,000 young people have applied to ALA's two-year diploma program, and 1,978 students from 47 countries have enrolled

Malak Ameur '26 (Morocco) served as president of the Espoir Association at École Al Jabr, her former high school in Casablanca, where she coordinated donation drives, outreach, and fundraising for vulnerable communities. She helped organize Ramadan food distributions that reached up to 200 people several times a week, and she supported a campaign that delivered food and essential supplies to families in Marrakech. When money was tight, she shifted the group toward visits to orphanages, where volunteers ran games and creative workshops for children.



Since 2010, alumni have enrolled at 341 universities in 60 countries and accepted $270 million in university scholarships

Samantha Magowo '23 (Zimbabwe) studies biomedical engineering at the University of Rochester, guided by one question: whose health gets prioritized, and who gets left behind? Since her first semester, she has been a research assistant at the University of Rochester Medical Center, building tools that control mitochondria to study neurodegenerative disease. She has also researched ultrasound-activated cancer treatments that limit harm to healthy cells. This year, she leads the university's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers as it marks its 45th anniversary.

448 ALA alumni have pursued postgraduate studies at 215 graduate schools in 34 countries



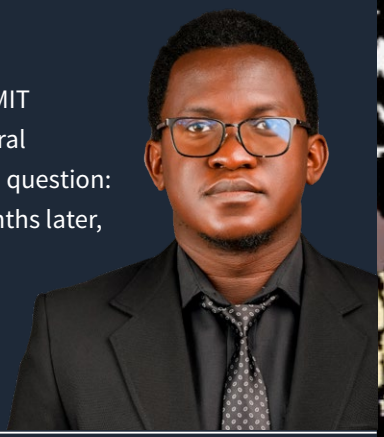
Anthony Asiegbunam ’18 (Nigeria) is pursuing an MBA at the Yale School of Management as a Silver Scholar, a program that admits students directly from college. He earned his BA in economics and quantitative risk management at Yonsei University in South Korea. In Seoul, he also led growth strategy at IBI, an edtech startup, expanding its career accelerator to new university chapters. His interests span finance, development economics, and education policy, and he is driven by one goal: using data to leave every space better than he found it.

In 2026, Africa Career Networks placed 918 young leaders in jobs and internships



Vuyisile Magagula ’21 (Eswatini) spent five months in Botswana with Masana wa Afrika, a foundation that supports community organizations serving children across Africa. She designed a digital skills curriculum and taught it to 45 primary students, whose scores on the mock Primary School Leaving Examination rose by 30%. A chemical engineering student at the University of Johannesburg, she also mentored teams in ALA’s Chevron Engineering Leadership Program in 2025 and 2026, helping students turn their ideas into prototypes.

ALA alumni have founded 615 ventures across the continent and around the world



Martin Lubowa ’18 (Uganda) was an ALA student in January 2020 when he joined MIT undergraduates in a course on the HIV epidemic, traveling from Johannesburg to rural KwaZulu-Natal with his MIT roommate, Daniel Zhang. The two kept asking the same question: Who supports young African scientists who want to do their own research? Two months later, they launched a free virtual research bootcamp for 80 students. That pilot became Future African Scientists (FAS), which has trained more than 500 scientists from 20 countries and now helps them launch ventures in diagnostics, therapeutics, and food security.

73% of ALA graduates are actively engaged in work or projects across Africa



Fabris Mulindi ’22 (DRC), who grew up in Uganda’s Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, founded Solve & Flourish Africa (SOLFA), which runs climate-smart agriculture, clean energy, and water purification projects in refugee and rural communities. SOLFA has been nominated for the Earthshot Prize and helped shape Uganda’s National Youth & Children Climate Statement. Fabris is a Lincoln Scholar at Centre College in Kentucky, an Anzisha Fellow, and a singer who performed at COP28.

HOW WE DEVELOP *THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS*

ALA's Two-Year Diploma Program

ALA offers a two-year residential diploma program that develops ethical, entrepreneurial leaders ready to take on Africa's greatest challenges. Since 2008, it has brought together young people from across the continent and helped them build the skills and mindset to lead.

Students begin with three core subjects: Writing & Rhetoric, African Studies, and Entrepreneurial Leadership (EL). EL pairs leadership theory with hands-on entrepreneurial practice, and it pushes students to build real solutions to pressing problems. Alongside the core, students take two or three Cambridge A-Level courses, plus electives and research classes that follow their interests.

This year, in a pilot co-designed with students, ALA redesigned Year 2 around depth. Each student now majors in either Writing & Rhetoric or African Studies and minors in the other, and every major includes a yearlong research project that ends with the ALA Thesis. Students also have three periods a week, roughly 72 hours a year, set aside for self-directed learning: time to read, write, research, and reflect on their own terms.

The Diploma Program in Numbers

With 95% of students receiving financial assistance, ALA has provided $92M in aid, and every dollar it awards unlocks three more in university scholarships.

51 / 49	13	23
gender ratio: % female / % male	average class size	Cambridge International AS and A-Levels offered





18 student enterprises operating on campus

Many young Africans care about the environment but have few chances to act on it. **Eco-Terra**, a student enterprise, runs sustainability workshops for middle and high school students, online and in person. On campus, it sells eco-friendly soap, potted plants, and desk organizers made from recycled materials.

12 independent enterprises on ALA's campus



Mohamed Ali Tounsi '25 (Tunisia) and **Afomachukwu Ikeyi '25 (Nigeria)** are the fifth generation of students to own Snack Bar, the enterprise that runs ALA's campus vending machine. Passed from one set of student owners to the next, it still runs on its original idea: students should be able to find a snack whenever they need one. After noticing that other campus sellers often ran out of stock at the same time, Mohamed and Afomachukwu set out to keep the machine full, even late at night.

100+ students take part in global conferences each year



Eric Wambugu '25 (Kenya) wants African food and cooking traditions to earn the same recognition and respect as Western cuisine. As a Bezos Scholar, he attended the Aspen Ideas Festival, then carried his ideas to the Montgomery Bell International Symposium on Food & Culture in Bogotá, Colombia, where he kept exploring what it would take to bring his mission to life.

80+ students serving in leadership roles across campus



When **Eunila Freire Pereira '25 (Cape Verde)** arrived at ALA, the Residential Assistants stood out as the people students turned to for help, support, or a conversation when things felt overwhelming. Now the RA of Athena Hall, she has become that person for others. The role is shaping her, too, making her more confident, patient, and caring.

100% of Year 2 students are conducting research



Barach Deng '25 (South Sudan) wants to understand how artificial intelligence can support development at home. His independent research examines where AI could make the biggest difference in South Sudan and what stands in the way, from cost and access to infrastructure and privacy. His central question: How can South Sudan adopt AI responsibly, in ways that serve its people?

58 sector events in the past year drew more than 1,300 young people

Spencer Mapulanga ’21 (Zambia), a public health student at the University of Lusaka, attended the Africa HealthTech Summit in Kigali with fellow young health leaders from the AL for Health Network. The summit drew more than 4,300 delegates, and he came away convinced that collaboration has to lead to real impact and that Africa must build, own, and sustain its own health-tech solutions.

9,029 jobs created by entrepreneurs in ALA programs

Abdelouahab Krim (Algeria) won the Anzisha Job Creation Prize for BAC Students, a study network that helps students prepare for the baccalaureate exam, used by 130,000 people across Africa. Since June 2024, his team has grown from one person to ten, and more than 3,000 teachers now earn through the platform. Half his hires are women, nine in ten are under 25, and for most, it is their first paycheck. His licensing model, launched in Morocco, turns each new market into new jobs.

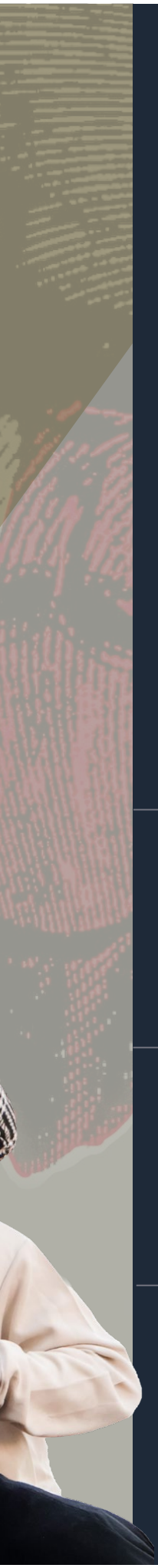
The AL for Education Fellowship has supported 43 school leaders, who are strengthening education for more than 20,000 students

Kabasinguzi Modestar (Uganda), an AL for Education Fellow, co-founded the THEHASA Foundation, whose vocational center in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement trains out-of-school youth and young mothers in seven trades, with on-site care for their babies. At 22, she leads a staff of 19 and has served more than 600 young people, who use their skills to earn, save, and, for many, pay for their children’s education.

31 alumni attended the first Japan Indaba

In Beppu, Japan, ALA’s Alumni Engagement team brought together 31 alumni based in Japan, China, and South Korea for an intergenerational indaba, a gathering for open conversation. Graduates from different cohorts, many meeting for the first time, found common ground, supported one another, and gave honest feedback on what alumni need from ALA.





ACCELERATING *OUR IMPACT*

ALA's Programs Division

ALA's vision goes beyond the classroom. The Programs Division supports young leaders throughout their careers, helping them drive meaningful change in Africa. Through partnerships and targeted programs, ALA has expanded its reach, creating more opportunities for young Africans to thrive.

At every life transition, whether moving to university, launching ventures, or entering the workforce, ALA provides tailored support. The Programs Division nurtures entrepreneurs, offers fellowships, and facilitates job and internship placements to help alumni build impactful, purpose-driven careers.

331
Anzisha Fellows
have generated more than $40 million in revenue

473
entrepreneurs
in 19 ALA cohorts of the Mastercard Foundation Fund for Alumni Start-ups in Transition (FAST) have attracted $330,000 in investment and grants

9,905
young leaders
in the network, from 58 countries

8,556
internships and jobs
secured for young Africans transitioning to work

95%
of ALA alumni
graduate from university within five years, compared to 85% at elite US universities and 77% for students of color

OUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT *MODEL*

ALA equips high-potential young people with the skills and opportunities to accelerate their trajectories and amplify their impact across Africa and beyond.

IDENTIFY

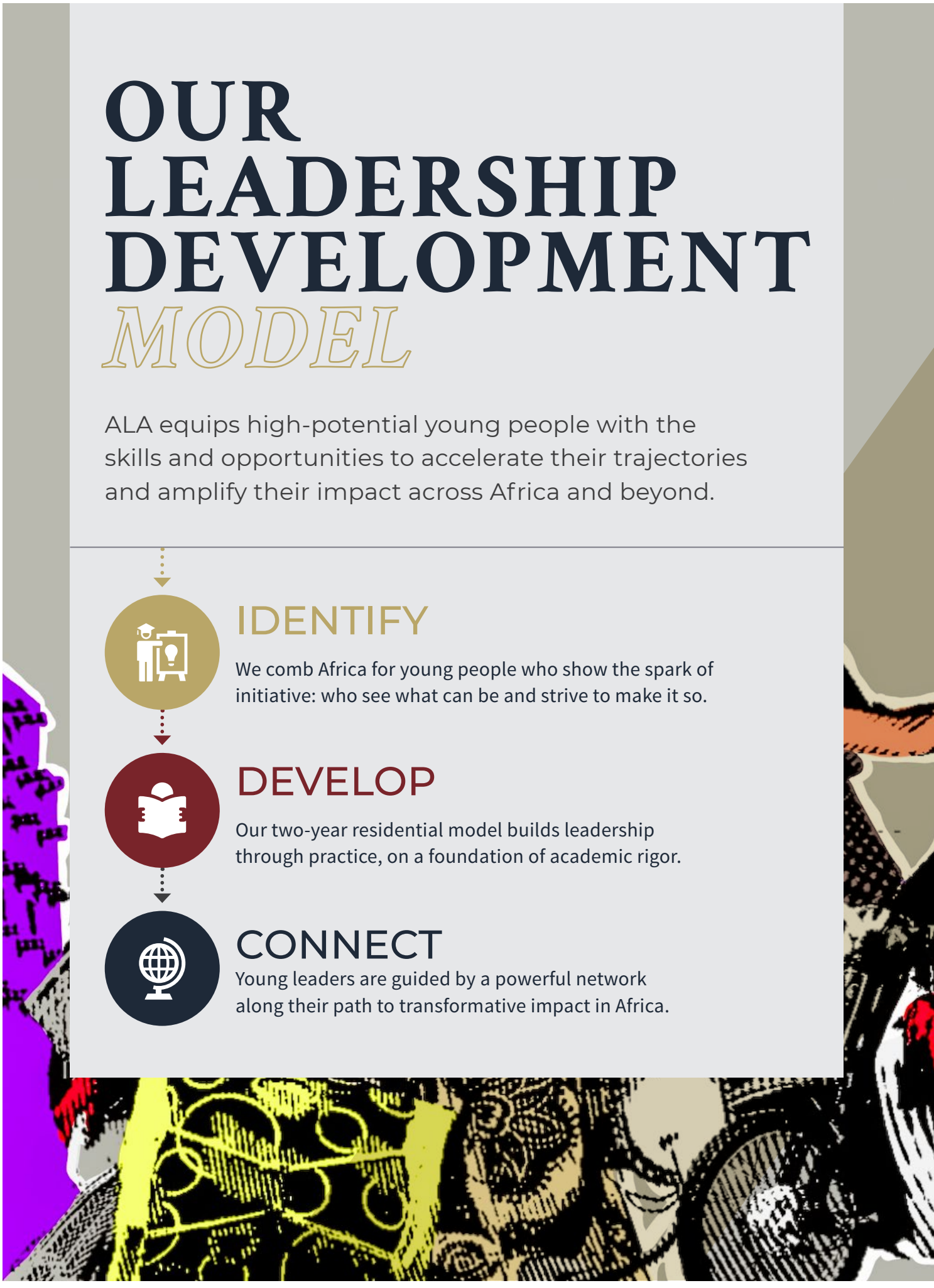
We comb Africa for young people who show the spark of initiative: who see what can be and strive to make it so.

DEVELOP

Our two-year residential model builds leadership through practice, on a foundation of academic rigor.

CONNECT

Young leaders are guided by a powerful network along their path to transformative impact in Africa.



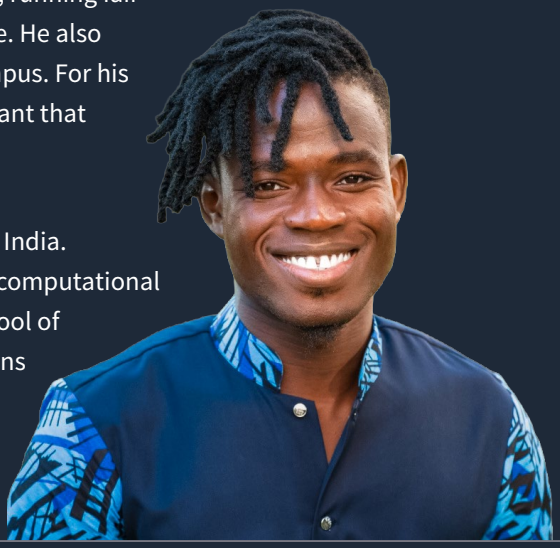
APOLLINAIRE ABI ’16 (Togo)

IDENTIFY

Before ALA, Apollinaire attended the Lycée Scientifique de Kara in northern Togo, where he noticed that some classmates were falling behind in science while others excelled. To close the gap, he co-created a peer tutoring program, recruiting top science students in his grade to tutor classmates twice a week.

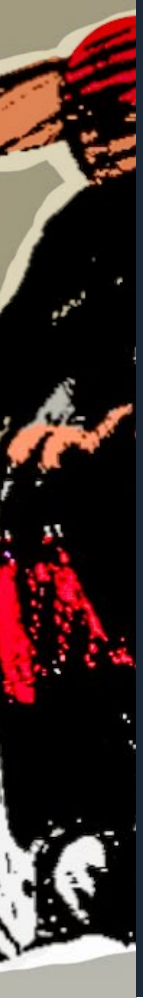
DEVELOP

At ALA, Apollinaire served on the Electoral Supervisory Committee, running fair campus elections and holding elected student leaders accountable. He also joined Greenlink, a student enterprise promoting recycling on campus. For his independent research project, he designed a small-scale biogas plant that turns household, farm, and animal waste into cooking fuel.



CONNECT

After ALA, Apollinaire studied mathematics at Ashoka University in India. Today, he is an Obama Foundation Scholar pursuing a master’s in computational analysis and public policy at the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy. He also co-founded and leads NawiriTech, which trains young Africans in data science and partners with government agencies to advance evidence-based policy.



WINNIE MANGENI ’13 (Kenya)

IDENTIFY

Before ALA, Winnie and two friends started an education project for children in Mombasa’s Moroto slum, many of whom had been displaced and forced out of school by post-election violence. After getting permission from the local chief, they began with 30 children, providing lessons, food, and clothing.

DEVELOP

At ALA, Winnie was a Peer Counselor, helping new students adjust to academic and personal life on campus. She served as Director of Logistics for ALA’s flagship Model African Union conference and as Chief Marketing Officer of E-Build, a student enterprise developing mobile tools that give entrepreneurs affordable business training and support.



CONNECT

After ALA, Winnie earned a BFA in film and a master’s in technology entrepreneurship from Notre Dame, then co-founded PAWA AI, which builds low-cost AI tools in African languages, from farming assistants to Swahili education apps. PAWA AI has partnered with GSMA, the global association of mobile network operators, on African language models and was selected for a UNDP accelerator.



ALA students perform Mr. and Mrs. Faust at Umuzi, ALA's annual celebration of the arts.

In this new version of the classic story about a man who trades his soul for wealth and power, the cast shaped the plot through improvisation and gave his wife a much bigger role.





OUR ALUMNI *AT WORK*

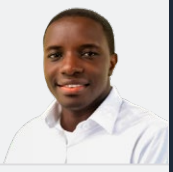
Africa's greatest challenges are also its greatest opportunities. Meeting them takes people who know and trust one another, so ALA organizes its alumni into seven sector communities that connect young professionals with mentors, peers, and opportunities in their field. No graduate builds a career alone.

Agribusiness

With support from the Small Foundation

AL for Agribusiness supports young agricultural entrepreneurs with masterclasses, coaching, and career guidance.

Ability Kakama '08 (Tanzania), Tanzania Country Manager at Aceli Africa, works with financial institutions to expand lending to small and medium agricultural businesses.



Sheila Chiamaka Chukwulozie '10 (Nigeria) runs PÉPÉRÉMPÉ Fine Foods, which turns chili from women-led farming cooperatives into sauces, oils, and spice blends.



Arts

With support from the Getnick family

AL for the Arts supports young leaders across the creative economy, from visual arts and music to publishing and cultural policy.

Lebone Magagane '20 (South Africa) was one of six African artists featured in Rooted Identities, ALA's digital exhibition with Google Arts & Culture in Ghana.



Khulekani Mkwanazi '19 (South Africa) is the founder and creative director of MOWA, a literary and arts magazine whose name means "spirit" or "soul" in Setswana.



Health

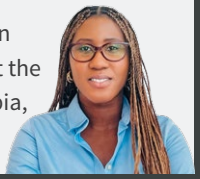
With support from ELMA Philanthropies

AL for Health trains and connects young leaders and backs innovation to build stronger health systems.

Wuntia Gomda '17 (Ghana) founded Panorama Health, which is bringing an AI-powered cervical cancer screening device to Ghana to make early detection affordable.



Misinzo Moono '10 (Zambia) leads research on sexually transmitted infections in pregnancy at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, improving care for mothers and newborns.

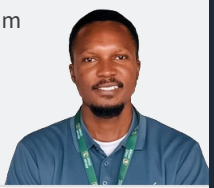


Governance

With support from the Efrusy Family Foundation and the World Gold Council

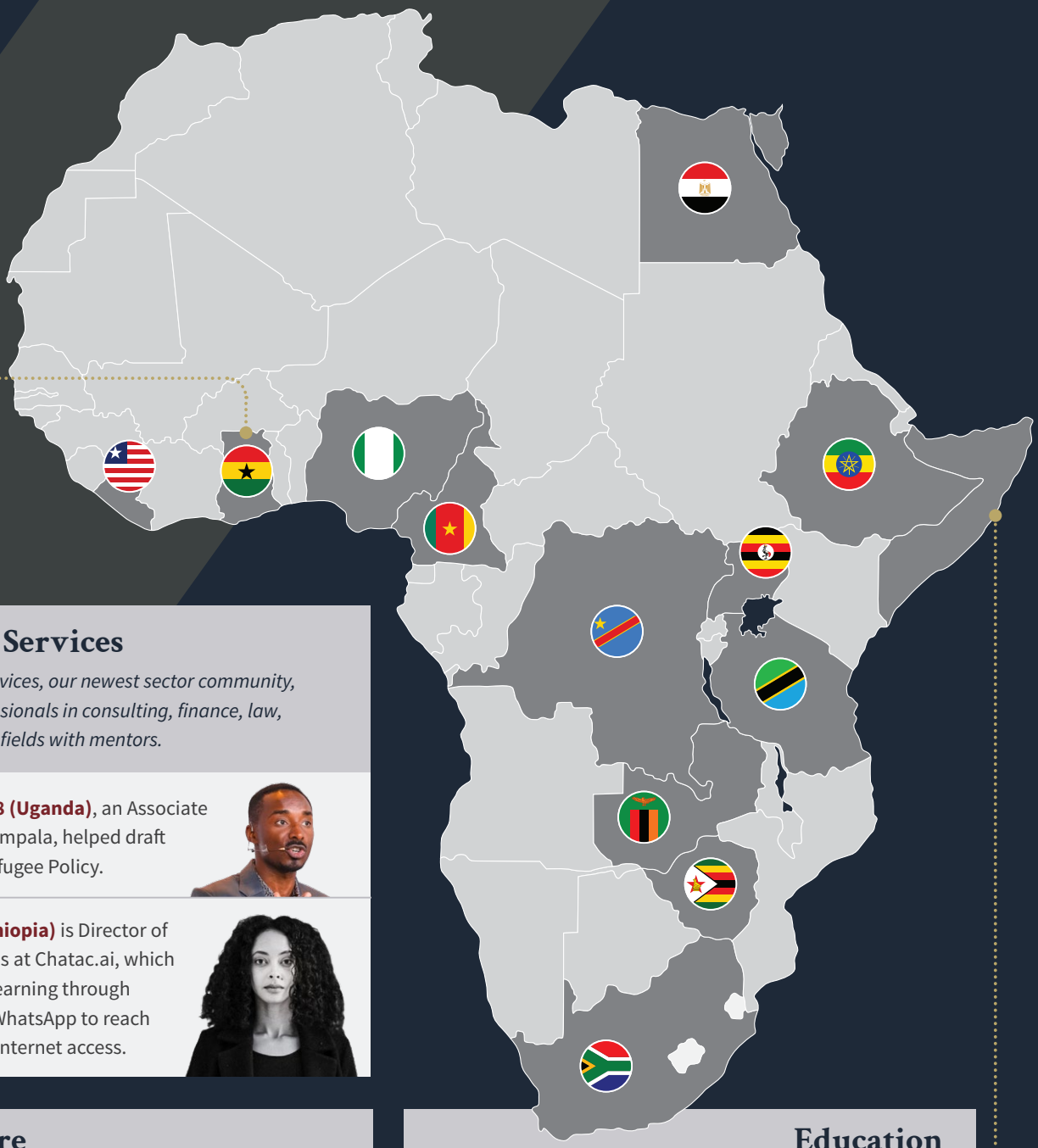
AL for Governance prepares ethical young leaders for careers in public service and civil society.

Emmanuel Mushy '11 (Tanzania) is a Program Associate at the African Union Commission, supporting WYFEI 2030, the AU's initiative to open economic opportunity to 10 million women and young people.



Dorcas Mendin '17 (Liberia), a Research Analyst at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supports Liberia's work on the UN Security Council.





Professional Services

AL for Professional Services, our newest sector community, connects young professionals in consulting, finance, law, technology, and other fields with mentors.

Michael Kayemba '08 (Uganda), an Associate Partner at Axum in Kampala, helped draft Uganda's National Refugee Policy.

Mhraf Worku '12 (Ethiopia) is Director of Sales and Partnerships at Chatac.ai, which delivers AI-powered learning through messaging apps like WhatsApp to reach learners with limited internet access.

Infrastructure

With support from the World Gold Council

AL for Infrastructure pairs young engineers and built-environment professionals with industry veterans.



Leyla Mouli '14 (Cameroon) leads environmental and social work at ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms, which builds industrial zones so African countries can process raw materials locally.



Ahmed Kabuya '22 (DRC) and four teammates entered the International Organization for Migration's 2025 design challenge with Tuungane Energy, a refugee-led marketplace in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp that turns organic waste into clean energy and fertilizer.

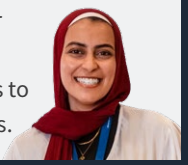
Education

With support from the Bezos Family Foundation, the Judith Neilson Foundation, and the Vitol Foundation

AL for Education develops leaders and entrepreneurs working to transform how Africa's young people learn.



Mpiwa Gwindi '18 (Zimbabwe) teaches business management, research methods, and technology at Barwaaqo University, Somaliland's only all-female university.



Habiba Emam '22 (Egypt) completed the AL for Education Apprenticeship at Young Scholars of Egypt, exploring how to expand students' access to coding and entrepreneurial leadership programs.

OUR *STRATEGY*

In 2023, ALA launched ALA 2026, a three-year plan to finish what we started. We organized our work around four priorities: a school that is a model of pan-African excellence, a hub for youth leadership across the continent, a lasting financial engine, and a great place to grow. Now in the plan's final year, we can see what that focus has made possible. What we have learned will shape the strategy that comes next.

01 A School to Change the World

02 Communities of Leadership

03 A Lasting Financial Engine

04 A Great Place to Grow

A School to Change the World

We continue to build a school that learns together in service of African leadership. This year, we redesigned Year 2 so students can go deeper, with a major, a minor, a yearlong research project, and protected time for independent study. Academic results have improved steadily over the past three years, and our well-being survey shows students feeling increasingly safe and connected at ALA.

Depth over Breadth

ALA 2026 called for deeper learning and fewer competing demands on students' time. When the Academy asked Year 2 students what they wanted, they agreed unanimously: depth over variety. They valued both Writing & Rhetoric and African Studies, and they wanted a chance to produce serious, publishable research.

This year, ALA redesigned Year 2 around their answer. Each student now majors in one course and minors in the other, based on their interests. The major includes a yearlong research project, written to a publishable standard, that culminates in the ALA Thesis, which students present before graduation. The redesign also freed up three periods a week, about 72 hours a year, for students to be autodidacts, setting their own course through independent reading, writing, research, and reflection.





FAVOUR BAMIDELE-TUGBOBO '25 (Nigeria)



Favour is majoring in African Studies with a focus on Science in Africa and minoring in Writing & Rhetoric. Her research looks at psychological health in the mining industry. Mining companies have long focused on physical safety, but the work is high-risk, and its effects on workers' mental and emotional well-being have received far less attention. Favour will spend the year studying that gap and will present her findings as her ALA Thesis before she graduates.

Communities of Leadership

We continue to connect young African leaders to each other, to ALA, and to a shared mission for the continent. Our programs are supporting more school founders, young entrepreneurs, and early-career professionals than when the strategy began. Our sector communities have grown substantially, and more alumni have signed the ALA pledge, committing to serve the continent.

Learning Across the Global South

This year, AL for Education piloted a more immersive way to develop school leaders through an international learning experience in India, designed as a reciprocal South-South exchange rather than a traditional study tour. In February, Fellows traveled to Mumbai for Project Reinvention 2026, a three-day gathering hosted by The Circle India that brought together more than 300 educators, changemakers, and policymakers. The Circle had visited ALA the year before, and this time our Fellows went to them.

Over the week, Fellows visited schools and organizations across Mumbai, each of which shared its model openly. At Shikha Academy, whose first A-Level cohort included students in the top 1% globally, they studied the MAT model, which assesses every unit of learning through motivation, ability, and transfer. At Future Endeavours, they examined a four-stage cycle for teacher professional development, and at Transcend, a survey tool for measuring school culture. They also visited Muktangan, which hires its teachers from the surrounding community, and The Next Page, founded beside one of Asia's largest garbage dumps.

Fellows came home ready to act. **Jayant Vijayakumar** of Soofia International School in Lesotho returned with concrete plans: measuring school culture through a student survey, rebuilding student government around roles rather than popularity, and introducing a history curriculum rooted in the Basotho context.



AL for Education Fellows in India



A Lasting Financial Engine

We remain focused on building a financial foundation that will sustain ALA for generations. Our endowment has more than doubled since the start of the strategy, with investment returns that rank among the strongest of our peer institutions. Long-standing partners have renewed their support, and new partners have joined us, broadening the base of philanthropy behind our students. We have also kept costs disciplined, directing most of our spending to students and programs.

A Partnership Building Africa's Next Engineers

Long-term corporate partnerships help ALA diversify its revenue and sustain programs year after year. In 2026, the Chevron Engineering Leadership Program (CELP) ran for the sixth year on ALA's campus. It brought 31 high school students from seven African countries to Johannesburg for a residential program in engineering and leadership, and 61% of the participants were young women.

This year's theme asked how technology can improve education in Africa. Students worked in pan-African teams, mentored by engineering students from Wits, the University of Johannesburg, and the University of Pretoria, and used the Engineering Design Process to build seven prototypes. They included STEM kits made from upcycled e-waste for rural schools in Ghana, smart glasses that read classroom content aloud for visually impaired students in Malawi, and a learning kit for mobile schools in nomadic communities in Turkana, Kenya. The winning team designed portable learning blocks to help young children in Nairobi build early literacy and numeracy skills.

Students built their prototypes in the Chevron-sponsored Makerspace, and two senior engineering managers from Chevron's Angola operations came to campus to mentor them. The program also hosted four visiting teachers from Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone, including a director from the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board. Each returned home with new ideas for teaching engineering and technology in their own schools and systems.



A Great Place to Grow

We remain committed to making ALA a place where people grow and do their best work. Over the past two years, we increased annual leave, introduced disability cover, improved our pension arrangement, and piloted a sabbatical program for long-serving staff and faculty. We launched manager training and a digital onboarding platform, and retention is up across the organization. Growth at ALA does not always end at our gates. Sometimes it means taking what people learned here to another school.

Growth Beyond Our Campus

Part of making ALA a great place to grow is preparing staff for what comes next, whether that is a long career here or a role at another organization. When ALA staff take what they have learned into other institutions, they help strengthen education beyond our campus.

EMMANUEL MVULA

Emmanuel came to ALA in May 2021 as a cleaner with Supercare, one of ALA's service partners. Six months later, he joined the Africa Career Networks team as a Community Engagement Associate, designing curricula and running career workshops for Mastercard Foundation Scholars. He then moved into Human Resources, first as HR Administrator, managing payroll and the onboarding of international educators, and later as HR Officer. In five years, he held four roles.

Emmanuel credits mentors at ALA with teaching him that his circumstances were not his final destination. In 2026, he joined the HR team at the German International School Johannesburg, bringing what he learned at ALA to a new school community.



Queer African Network: One Alum Hands Off to Another

Okong'o Kinyanjui '14 (Kenya) founded the Queer African Network, the first app built for LGBTQ+ Africans to find community safely in countries where they face criminalization. It now has more than 2,300 members in 18 countries and a co-working and event space in Nairobi.

Today, the organization is led by fellow ALA graduate **Flower Akaliza '16 (Rwanda and Kenya)**, who took over as executive director while Okong'o stayed on as board president.

Okong'o has since turned to a problem many LGBTQ+ organizations in East Africa share: they rent their spaces and depend on short-term international grants, which leaves them vulnerable. In 2026, he launched The Home Fund, the first fund dedicated to helping these organizations buy their own buildings.



A WORLD OF *POSSIBILITY*

Helping Africa's young leaders navigate a changing university landscape.

For some ALA students this year, securing admission and a full scholarship was still not enough. Travel restrictions put university plans on hold, while changing immigration policies and pressures on universities made an already demanding application process harder to navigate.

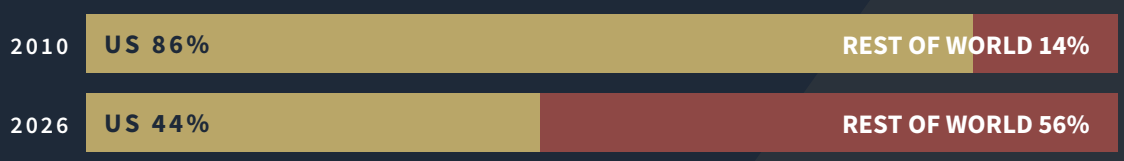
These challenges brought urgency to work ALA has been pursuing for years: expanding the range of universities where our students can access an excellent education with the financial support they need. Our University Guidance team helped students reconsider plans, explore unfamiliar destinations, and apply to institutions they might once have overlooked. Alongside offers from long-standing university partners, this year brought new opportunities across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

That work takes more than identifying universities in different countries. For each student, there are practical questions to answer. Does the university offer the right course? Will their qualifications meet its entry requirements? Is sufficient financial aid available? And can the student picture themselves building a life there?

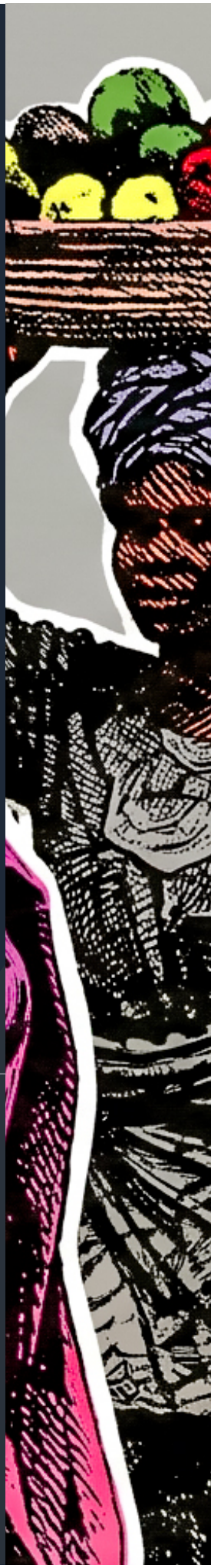
This year, more of our students began answering that last question with a wider view of what was possible.

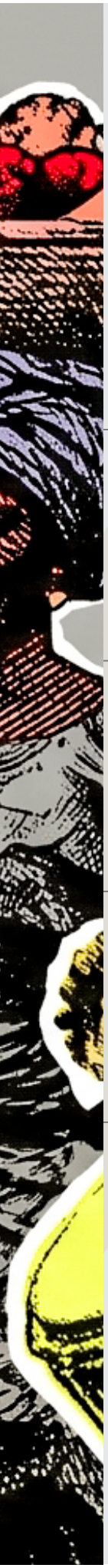
60 countries where ALA graduates have studied, up from 7 in 2010.

GRADUATES STARTING UNIVERSITY · US VS REST OF WORLD



In 2010, 86% of ALA graduates starting university went to the US.
Of those starting university in 2026, more than half (56%) enrolled outside the US.





Ambitions taking shape around the world

Temitope Johnson ’24 (Nigeria) is the first ALA student at KAIST in South Korea, studying electrical engineering with an interest in affordable diagnostic equipment.



Bettylily Karioki ’24 (Kenya) is training to become a dentist at the University of Debrecen in Hungary, through its five-year Doctor of Dental Medicine program.

Leonah Ndlovu ’23 (Zimbabwe) is studying sociology and anthropology at Ashoka University in India and hopes to become a feminist scholar.



Benie Gouli ’24 (Côte d’Ivoire) is studying civil engineering at NYU Abu Dhabi, focused on affordable housing for West Africa.

Alaa Elshhba ’24 (Egypt) is studying computer science at Constructor University in Germany, with the goal of building assistive technologies.



Phemelo Mafolo ’24 (South Africa) is studying business at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, one of a growing group of ALA students there.

Reagan Mungoma ’24 (Uganda) is studying data science and artificial intelligence at Academic City University in Ghana, with the goal of building systems that broaden financial access across Africa.



Tlhokomelo Sethole ’23 (Lesotho) is studying data science at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, with the goal of applying data to real-world problems.

Making more options possible

Today, ALA students are enrolled at universities in 36 countries. Some are long-standing destinations; others, like KAIST, are new to our community. Thirty-one ALA students are currently studying in Japan, and others are pursuing degrees in Canada, Rwanda, Lebanon, Qatar, and beyond.

It has been a difficult year, and some students continue to face obstacles despite their hard work. But there is much to celebrate in the students willing to rethink their plans, the people who guided them, and the university partners who opened their doors.

Each student who takes a less familiar route makes it easier for the next to imagine doing the same. As our graduates build lives on campuses around the world, they give future ALA students more places to look, more experiences to learn from, and more confidence to consider an opportunity they might once have passed over.

FINANCIAL & *ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION*

Financial Overview

This section presents the abridged audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2026. ALA's operating position should not be read in isolation. The African Leadership Foundation (ALF), an independent USA 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports ALA, raises much of ALA's funding and holds most of its endowment, so these statements alone do not show the full picture. Across the system, ALA entered FY27 in a strong financial position. The complete audited statements are available from the Chief Financial Officer on request.

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ending 30 June 2026

Amounts in ZAR millions

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (ZAR M)	FY26	FY25
Total Revenue	191.6	207.8
Operating Expenses	(223.0)	(232.6)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**(31.4)**	**(24.8)**
Investment Income	15.3	17.8
Endowment Cost	(0.4)	(0.4)
Fair Value Adjustments	3.7	(0.6)
Other Net Income/Expenses	(1.9)	3.2
Foreign Exchange Movements	(8.7)	4.7
Finance Costs	(2.3)	(3.1)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	**(25.7)**	**(3.2)**

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026

Amounts in ZAR millions

BALANCE SHEET (ZAR M)	FY26	FY25
Non-Current Assets	171.3	186.1
Current Assets	334.8	354.7
Total Assets	**506.1**	**540.8**
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Endowment*	216.7	198.5
Retained Income	161.3	205.4
Total Equity	**378.0**	**403.8**
Liabilities		
Non-Current Liabilities	37.6	50.8
Current Liabilities	90.5	86.2
Total Liabilities	**128.1**	**137.0**
Total Equity and Liabilities	**506.1**	**540.8**

*Internally generated endowment reserves held by African Leadership Academy NPC. This is not ALA's total endowment; see Endowment Fund.

Endowment Fund

In 2019, ALA launched its endowment campaign to secure its long-term future. Three years ago, we set a goal to reach $50 million by July 2027. We surpassed it a year early. Today, the endowment stands at nearly $57 million, almost double its 2023 level, and we are now targeting $60 million by the end of FY27.

In the past year, we achieved net returns of 17.1%, placing the endowment in the top quartile of US endowments and foundations. Our annualized three-year returns of 14.8% exceeded our benchmark in each period. This year, for the second consecutive year, the endowment distributed direct scholarship support for ALA students, totaling $700,000 in FY26.

Organizational Information

African Leadership Academy NPC is a Section 21 and Section 18A not-for-profit, public benefit organization in the Republic of South Africa with Registration Number 2005/005377/08 and PBO Number 930020187. African Leadership Academy is registered with the Gauteng Province Department of Education (No 400286) and is a Member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) and is accredited under the ACE protocol of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).



Paying It Forward

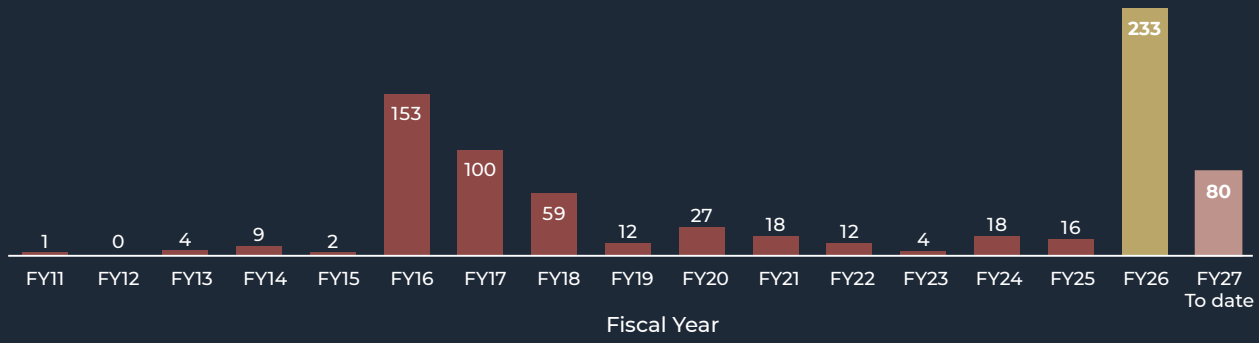
The number of alumni giving to ALA grew more than fourteenfold in a single year.

In FY26, 233 alumni gave to ALA, up from 16 the year before. It was the strongest year of alumni giving in the Academy's history, and 80 alumni have already given in FY27.

One gift was a first. A member of the Class of '12, who has chosen to remain anonymous, funded a full scholarship for a student in the Class of '26, from arrival through graduation.

More than 1,000 alumni have signed the ALA Pledge, committing to give to the scholarship fund every year at whatever level they can.

Alumni donors by fiscal year



LEADERSHIP & *GOVERNANCE*

Senior Leadership

Hatim Eltayeb	Chief Executive Officer
Josh Adler	Chief Program Officer
Uzo Agyare-Kumi	Dean of the Academy
Rivasha Maharaj	Chief Financial Officer
Cynthia Mangaba	Director of Institutional Learning
Kim Urquhart	Head of Human Resources
Wade Zamechek	Chief Development Officer

African Leadership Academy Board of Trustees

Anisha Gordhan (Chair)	Private Equity Executive
Folasade Adefisayo	CEO, Leading Learning Ltd
Chris Bradford	Co-Founder, African Leadership Academy and President, Morehead-Cain Foundation
Stacey Brewer*	Founder and Chair, SPARK Schools
Chinezi Chijioke	Co-Founder & CEO, Nova Pioneer Education Group
Hatim Eltayeb	CEO, African Leadership Academy
David Geral	Partner, Bowmans
Amukelani Machabi '16	Associate, ENS
Terence Naidu**	Managing Director, Envisionit Group of Companies
Tshego Sefolo	CEO, Agile Capital
Susanne Swaniker-Tettey	Group Financial Controller, De Beers Group
Brian Waweru '09**	Senior Associate, West Lane Partners

African Leadership Foundation Board of Directors

African Leadership Foundation is an independent USA 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation that supports African Leadership Academy and the next generation of African leaders.

Peter Baird (Chair)	Chief Executive Officer, Gordian Technologies
Temi Adeniji	Media & Entertainment Executive
Chris Bradford	Co-Founder, African Leadership Academy and President, Morehead-Cain Foundation
Euler Bropleh	Founder and Managing Director, VestedWorld
Queen Chinyere Quinn	Co-Founder and Partner, Kupanda Capital
Molly Efrusy	President, Efrusy Family Foundation
Ellie Loughlin*	Chair, Beacon Academy
Aida Ndiaye '09	Head of Public Policy, Policy Campaigns and Programs, Meta
Tayo Oviosu	Founder & Group CEO, Paga
Alexandra Palt	Former CEO, L'Oréal Foundation
Sneha Shah	Chief AI Strategist and Head of SEI Next, SEI
Andrew Sweet	Vice President of Innovation, The Rockefeller Foundation

*** Appointed in FY26 | ** Tenure Concluded in FY26**

Global Advisory Council

The Global Advisory Council brings together leaders from business, philanthropy, education, and public life who serve as ALA's global ambassadors, opening doors to funding, universities, employers, and partners for our students and alumni.

Acha Leke
Aisha Oyebode
Amy Brakeman
Andreas Kirchschläger
Anthony Marx
Beth Hirshman
Brad Gioia
Bruce D. Walker
Carly Fiorina
Carroll Bogert
Christopher Cheney
Christopher Khaemba
David C. Burke
David Coleman
David Issroff
Dominique Mielle
Don Gips
Ed Brakeman
Futhi Mtoba
Gary Cohen
Gbenga Oyebode
George Stewart
Hakeem Belo-Osagie
Ibrahim Slaoui
Isaac Shongwe
Jacko Maree
Jide Zeitlin
Jim Fleming
Joan Lonergan
John Campbell
John Hood
John Thornton
Johnnie Carson
Jon Cummings
Kari Ostrem
Kevin Efrusy
Laura Waitz
Lim Lai Cheng
Lisa Issroff
Margie Thorne
Mark Yusko
Mary Zients
Michael Denning
Mimi Alemayehou
Molly Cashin
Myma Belo-Osagie
Nicholas Pianim
Okechukwu Enelamah
Patrick Awuah
Paul Harris
Peter Mombaur
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Phuthuma Nhleko
Ralph Townsend
Richard Okello
Sarah O'Hagan
Sarah Robertson
Sizwe Nxasana
Spencer Robertson
Ted Dintersmith
Temba Maqubela
Timothy McChristian
Tunde Folawiyo
Wendy Luhabe
Wilfred Chilangwa
Wilfred Griekspoor

An Alumni Voice on the Board

For more than a decade, an ALA graduate has served as a full voting member of the Board of Trustees, ALA's primary governing body. The Alumni Trustee serves a two-year term and helps shape the Academy's strategy, budget, and oversight. **Amukelani Machabi '16 (South Africa)**, a corporate lawyer at ENSafrica, joined the board in June 2025 and serves on its Buildings & Grounds Committee and its Remuneration & Nominations Committee.

"As a corporate lawyer, I work with boards every day and always assumed I'd join one much later in my career. ALA gave me that opportunity now. Serving as Alumni Trustee has sharpened how I think about risk and opportunity, and it has done as much for my professional life as it lets me give back."





WITH *GRATITUDE*

Our deepest appreciation goes out to our extraordinary donors who have helped make the ALA vision a reality since our founding.

$10M+

Bezos Family Foundation
Ed and Amy Brakeman
John and Tashia Morgridge
Mastercard Foundation
The Robertson Foundation

$5M+

Efrusy Family Foundation
Omidyar Network
Signe Ostby and Scott Cook
Theodore J. Forstmann Charitable Trust

$1M+

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad
Chevron Corporation
David Walt and Michele May
ELMA Philanthropies
Fred Pardee
Irv and Sukey Grousbeck
Ishiyama Foundation
Quadrature Charitable Foundation
Rebecca Oppenheimer
United Parcel Service
Vitol Group
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Anonymous (3)

$500K+

Actis
Allan & Gill Gray Foundation
Cisco Systems
Debra Dunn and Randy Komisar
Derek Schrier and Cecily Cameron
Diamond Empowerment Fund
GE
Google
Hakeem and Myma Belo-Osagie
Josh and Anita Bekenstein
Judith Neilson Foundation
McKinsey & Company
Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe & Africa (MCFEA)
Nedbank
Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (PMIEF)
Schmidt Futures
Small Foundation
The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation
The Warner Music Group / Blavatnik Family Foundation Social Justice Fund
Tunde and Reni Folawiyo
Anonymous (2)

$100K+

ABSA
Acha Leke
Adam and Abigail Winkel
Africa Global Logistics
African Capital Alliance
Agnes Varis Charitable Trust
Alan Main
Alis Schmidheiny
Anglo American Foundation
Asue and Ifeyinwa Ighodalo
Ben and Alice Reiter
Bertha Foundation
Bloomberg LP
Bob and Dottie King
Bracco Imaging
Brian and Katie Boland
Carly and Frank Fiorina
CEDAR Foundation
Chandra Jessee
Colgate-Palmolive
Connie and Dennis Keller
Cranwell Family Foundation
Credit Suisse
Danai Gurira
Daniel Szeto
David and Kelsey Lamond
David and Lisa Issroff
Dominique Mielle and Juan Carillo
Echoing Green Foundation
Elea Foundation
Equity Bank
Erika and Nicholas Pianim
ETS
FirstRand Limited
Flora Family Foundation
Gbenga and Aisha Oyebode
GlaxoSmithKline
Harry Roels
IBM
Imago Dei Fund
Intuit Foundation
James Mwangi
Jim and Sheila Fleming
Jon Cummings and Holly Hegener
Jonathan Beare
Jonathan Oppenheimer
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Judson and Catharine Bradford
Julie and James Bradford
Liz and Don Gips
L'Oréal
Mary and Jeff Zients
Memuna and Victor Williams
Michael and Pam Carmen
Nate and Margie Thorne
Nathaniel and Sara Zilkha
National Philanthropic Trust
Neil Getnick and Margaret Finerty
Nicola Harris
Nicole Sermier and Franco Tapia
Ofosu-Amaah Family
Pat and Thomas Barry
PepsiCo
Pernod Ricard SA (Pty) Ltd
Phembani Group
Phuthuma Nhleko
PPC Cement
Promasidor
Rita Allen Foundation
Sandra Hoffman
Sanofi
Shapiro Foundation
Silver Point Capital
Standard Bank
Stephen A. Schwarzman & The Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Stephen and Sue Mandel
Susan and Craig McCaw
Ted Dintersmith and Elizabeth Hazard
Tembo Twiga Foundation
Temp and Kerry Keller
Templeton Foundation
The College Board
Thomas and Jan Thomas
Thomas Svanikier
Tierney Family
Tom and JaMel Perkins
Tom and Stacey Siebel
Tronox
Tshikululu Social Investments
Tullow Oil
Westfield Capital
Wilfred and Patricia Chilangwa
World Gold Council
Yuejia Peng and Luca M. Lombardi
Zayed Future Energy Prize

$50K+

Angela Zaeh
Ashley and Robert Sternfels
ATDTA Foundation
Barbara and Christopher Brody
Busi and Peter Mombaur
Carlyn and Jon Zehner
Chris Bradford and Genevieve Dumorné
Claire and John Flynn
Edna Swaniker
Emmanuel C. Edozien
Embassy of Denmark in South Africa
FIS Global
Flour Mills Nigeria
Gary and Lauren Cohen
Genie and Will Thorndike
Gregory and Laura Spivy
Haggar Group
Hattie Ruttenberg and Jon Molot
Ibukun Osifo
Ingredion South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Jed Herrmann and Meg Sullivan
John and Laura Fisher
Ken and Julie Hersh
Laura and Scott Malkin
Laura Waitz
London Stock Exchange Group Foundation
Louis Dreyfus Foundation
Makole and Ralph Mupita
Marisa Muller
Mark Nunnelly and Denise Dupre
Michael Ajukwu
Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence
Nielsen
Nomsa and Francis Daniels
Odgers Berndtson
Old Mutual
Patrick Healy
Paul and Sandra Edgerley
Philip Berney and Jane Pollock
Prudential Financial

New and Growing Partners

In 2025, two partners joined ALA with a shared belief: young Africans should shape the sectors that will define the continent's future. Quadrature Charitable Foundation gave $1 million to help prepare Africa's young climate leaders, on a continent that has done little to cause climate change and faces some of its most severe effects. A year in, climate learning is part of the curriculum and the grant has funded scholarships for the Class of 2025. The World Gold Council began with a $250,000 gift, and in 2026 it increased its support to $1 million annually. Most of that will fund scholarships, with the rest supporting the Umholi we Africa Fellowship and alumni career services.

Richard Constant
Rob and Ann Quandt
Schwab Charitable
Southern Star Shipping Co. Inc
The Buffin Foundation
The Makumbe Foundation
Thilo Mannhardt
Thomas and Carrie Siegel
US Department of State
Vuyelwa and Temba Maqubela
Whitney Muse
William Gray
Zakir Gaibi
Anonymous (1)

$25K+

Alex and Teresa Cummings
Ammar Kandil
Barrie Landry
Beth and Neil Hirshman
Bill and Luz MacArthur
Buffi and Clayton McDonald
Canadian High Commission South Africa
Deborah Hazell and Said Nurh
Derek and Lisa Kirkland
Don Kendall
Donor Circle for Africa – Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF)
EMSENI Trust
Eurofins Foundations
Garth Saunders
Global Impact
Google Employee Giving Program
Gordon Stewart and Nicola Guise
Impact Young Lives
Jennifer Bergeron
Joan Lonergan and John Merrow
Jonathan Malpass
Khumo and Ndileka Shuenyane
Kupanda Capital
Larry and Jennifer Clark
Lauren Glant and Michael Gillespie
Lindsay and Garth Greimann
Louis-Dreyfus Group
Massmart
McNulty Foundation
Media Trust Ltd (Nigeria)
Meg and Tomas Bergstrand
MTV Networks
Nonkqubela Mazwai
Patrick and Kara Dennis
Paul and Catherine Armington
Queen Quinn
Rick and Caroline Menell
Rockdale Foundation
Rory Eakin and Emily Rummo
SAB Miller
Siemens Foundation
Skoll Foundation
Stanford Graduate School of Business, GSB Gives Back
The Pzena Investment Charitable Fund
Theseu Trustees
Tomlinson Family Foundation
Walter and Julie Haas
Anonymous (1)

$10K+

Abigail Falik and Joel Segre
Adebayo Edun
Alan Bowser
Allan Gray
Andrew Arkutu Fellowship
Andrew Sweet and Alexandra Fisher
Ann and Arnold Wood
Anne D. and John Herrmann
Apsara Capital
Bear and Pam Albright
Bleu Blanc Rouge Foundation
Bo Hopkins and Ranji Nagaswami
Board of Healthcare Funders
Bob and Nancy Farese
Brian and Elizabeth Harper
Bruce McNamer
Caroline Donahue
Carolyn and Terry Gannon
Carrie Cobb
Carroll Bogert and Nina Papachristou
Charles Okeahalam
Charles Schwab Charity Fund
Chee Siew Yaw
Cindy Skarbek
Clare McCamy
Curtis and Jylla Tearte
Curtis Jackson
Dan Carroll and Stasia Obremskey
Daniel E. Hogan Jr. Charitable Foundation
David Burke
David Farhat
Domani Foundation
Douglas and Christine Hsu Rohde
Drumcliff Foundation
Duncan and Meredith Randall
Egg Foundation
Ernie and Kim Parizeau
Expeditors International
Fidelity Charitable
Friedrich Naumann Foundation
Genentech
Geoff and April Stein
Global Partners for Development
Gregg Gonsalves
Gregory Lee
Harvard Model United Nations
Hathaway Barry
Heather and Adam Hopkins
Inmaat Foundation
Itumeleng Kgaboesele
Jay Walker
Jenna and James Ellis
Jesse Rogers
Jodie Ireland
John and Christine Morrison
John Langhus
Karen and Sam Lambert
Katie and John Anthony
Keller Family Foundation
Kraft Foods Foundation
Lake Wang
Landry Tientcheu
Lawrence Fox
Leslie and David Puth
Leslie Talmadge and Brian Kopperl
Lionel Lammens
Luanda International School
Mark Patterson
Matchboxology
Michael and Juliet Patsalos-Fox
Michael McCaffery
Microsoft
Miles Morland Foundation
Nancy Simonian and Doug Cole
Norbert and Ilona Doerr
Och-Ziff Capital Management
Paul and Jeanne Harris
Peter and India Baird
Peter Kellner
Raphael Tshibangu
Reed Hundt and Betsy Katz
Richard and Omega Okello
Richard Rosen
Richard W. Goldman Family Foundation
Robert and Elizabeth Joss
Robin Renee Sanders
Rotary Australia
Russ Faucett
SAB Foundation
Sally and William Hewlett
Shirley and Eric Paley
Sneha Shah
Sonia Survanshi and Joshua McFarland
Southwest Development
Stephen and Katherine McCurdy
Summer Search
Susan and Thomas McCarthy
Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman
Synergy Capital Managers
Tendy Nigeria
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Coca-Cola Company
Thomas and Kathryn Bradford
Tom Epley and Linnae Anderson
Walbridge Fund
Will and Brooke Muggia
William Plapinger and Cassie Murray
Anonymous (1)

...and too many more to list, each of whom has made an indelible contribution to the Academy.

We make every effort to assemble this list accurately. If we made an error with your name or listing, please contact us at wzamechek[at]african-leadershipacademy.org

GET *INVOLVED*



Share our Mission

www.africanleadershipacademy.org/news-reports

Many of our young leaders have discovered ALA because of individuals who have taken the initiative to share our work with others. Please share our social media posts, forward our newsletters, and engage your friends and family around our work and our impact.

Invest in our Scholarship Fund

www.africanleadershipacademy.org/donate

ALA offers financial aid to 95% of our student body such that every admitted student can take up the opportunity. This commitment is made possible by thousands of donors across the world.

Nominate a Future Leader

www.africanleadershipacademy.org/apply

Do you know a young African with leadership potential? Nominate them for our Diploma Program with the form on our website! Your nomination rewards and acknowledges the achievements and potential of young people in your community.

African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

Hire a Young Leader

acnsupport@africanleadershipacademy.org

Our Africa Career Networks team matches high-potential African talent to extraordinary internship and career opportunities identified by friends and partners across the world. As a partner, you will accelerate the impact of our young leaders – and benefit from their ideas.

Join a Sector Community

www.careernetworks.africa

Our communities foster a vibrant exchange of ideas and collaboration across key sectors, including health, governance, infrastructure, education, agribusiness, the arts, and professional services. Our alumni seek mentors, speakers, advisors, and investors within these sector communities as we work together to bring a collective vision for Africa to life.

Work at ALA

www.africanleadershipacademy.org/careers

ALA attracts a diverse "staffulty" (staff and faculty) of global change makers: world-class professionals who share our values and a passion for Africa and her youth. We regularly post opportunities on our website. Join us!





The Class of 2024 graduated in front of *Ejo*, a mural by **Jayden Nkindi Uwishaka '24 (Rwanda)**, created with the support of street and graffiti artist George "Mars" Kalapov. In Kinyarwanda, *ejo* means both "yesterday" and "tomorrow," and Jayden built the mural around that idea: the future cannot be separated from the past. Drawing on Sankofa, the Akan philosophy of looking back in order to move forward, he created the piece to honor the stories and communities that shape each of us. It was a fitting backdrop for a class about to leave ALA, carrying their histories into whatever comes next.

1050 Printech Ave, Honeydew, Johannesburg, South Africa
+27 11 699 3000 | www.africanleadershipacademy.org