

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN AFRICA HIGHER EDUCATION



Nigeria



Ghana



Cote D'Ivoire



Benin



Togo



Burkina Faso



Cameroun



Senegal



Gambia



AAU



ECOWAS

AFRICA CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

The World Bank in collaboration with West and Central African countries launched the Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE) project in April 2014. The ACE project has approached the mid-term point with significant gains and progress clearly evident.

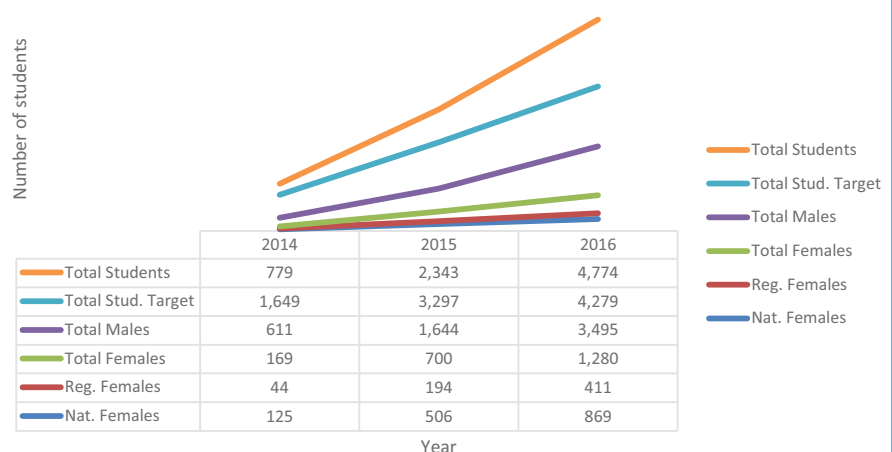
- ◆ The ACE project has substantial regional outreach with universities in Nigeria for the first time attracting students from the sub-region, including the Gambia. At least 1900 regional students enrolled in centers across West Africa.

KEY RESULTS

Strong Progress on Student Enrollment

- ◆ At least 8000 students enrolled in new specialized short-term courses, and Master and PhD programs (measures strengthened capacities): 8,002 students (up from 5,258 in March 2016).

ACE STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Excellence in Education through International Accreditation ■■

- ◆ The ACEs are leading in meeting global standards with two centers have established international accreditation in Engineering at the 2iE Center for Water and Environmental Sciences in Burkina Faso and MSc and PhD in Cell Biology at the Center for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens at the University of Ghana.

Excellent and Relevant Applied Research ■■

- ◆ The ACEs are leading ground breaking research that is being undertaken at African universities by African scientists. Africa Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) at Redeemer's University in Nigeria published world class research on the Ebola virus in Nature Science. This is also where the first sample

of Ebola was tested in Nigeria within a short time frame. The strong capacity within applied research and training at Redeemers was integral in battling the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria and the region.

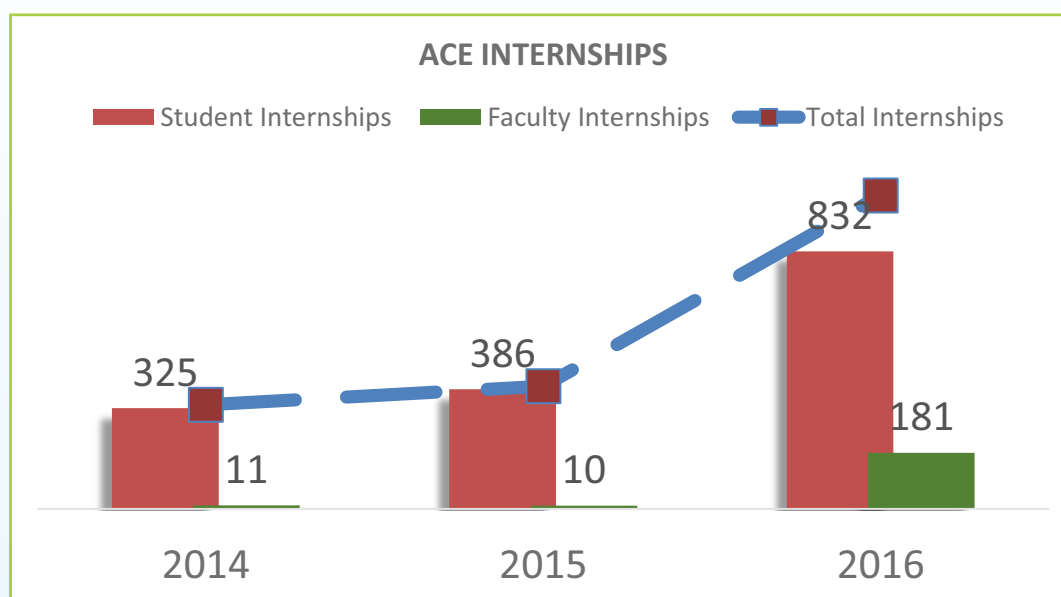
- ◆ Africa Center of Excellence in Applied Mathematics and ICT at the University of Gaston Berger in Senegal will host the headquarters of the International Laboratory for Research in Computer Science and Mathematics (LIRIMA) for the period 2015-2018.
- ◆ This shows some evidence that the regional competitive selection mechanism did select ACE teams in the universities that are strong and highly committed.



Three 2iE Prize winners on Innovation pose with leaders at the 2017 France-Africa Summit. From left to right Malian Prime Minister, Gildas ZODOME, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA, Ernest SANOU, French President François Hollande, Urbain AMOUSSOU.

Push for University-Industry Linkages

- ◆ The ACE project strongly supports university-industry linkages through internships. Since the project began at least 800 students have undergone a one-month internship. This is still a challenge, however the project supports partnership building between universities and industry to develop local solutions.



Measuring Relevance through Revenue Generation

- ◆ The ACE project is building capacity in revenue generation for the centers as one of the strong measures of quality. For instance, University of Ghana's Africa Center for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens raised 5.1 million

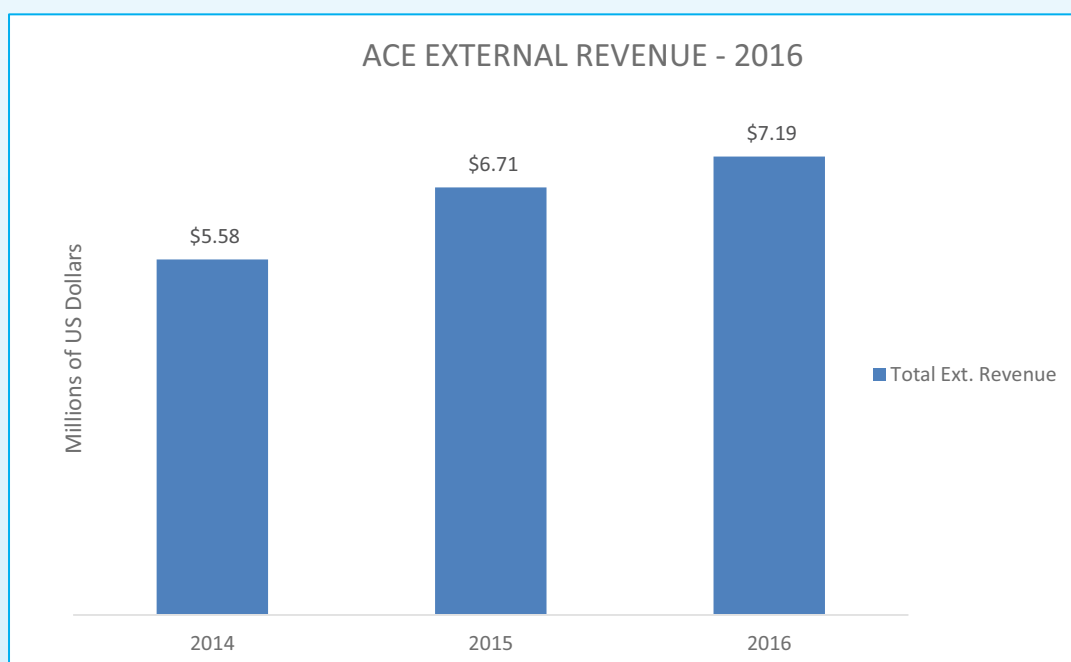
pounds for Wellcome Trust through a competitive fund grant, outbidding over 50 other proposals across Africa. Amount of externally generated revenue by the ACEs is now a total of US\$ 18.3 million.

Benefiting from other Development Partners

As a result of participation in the World Bank funded ACE Project, many ACEs are currently benefiting from other development partners. Examples include:

- ◆ Centre for Dryland Agriculture at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria - Macarthur Foundation
- ◆ West African Centre of Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens at the University of Ghana - The Wellcome Trust
- ◆ Centre for Genomics of Infectious Diseases at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria - US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
- ◆ Centre for Mining at Institut National Polytechnique Felix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB), Cote d'Ivoire - Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- ◆ Centre for Information and Communication Technologies, Cameroon - Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- ◆ Centre for Climate Change at Université Félix Houphouët Boigny (UFHB), Cote d'Ivoire – BMZ, Germany
- ◆ Pan African Materials Institute at the African University of Science and Technology, Nigeria – African Development Bank.
- ◆ Centre for Education and Research in Water, Energy, and Environment Sciences at 2iE, Burkina Faso – African Development Bank.

The ACE project provides an attracting open and unifying platform to create excellence in higher education and development impact in Africa.



Uniqueness of the ACE model: ■■

First ever regional higher education competition using international selection mechanism. Through the regional competition, strong leaders submitted proposals and those with strong backing from their institutions are succeeding. A key factor in the success is due to a strong and dynamic faculty. New institutions have been given a push through the ACE, such as Lomé University, University of Gaston Berger, Redeemers University and existing strong universities such as University of Ghana and 2iE have been given a boost

First Regional Results Based Higher Education Project-and its working!

- ◆ The project is financed based on results achieved by each ACE. The results center on achievement of quality and impactful education and research excellence. These results include publishing in international peer reviewed journals, quality benchmarks including international accreditation, internship of students in industry as well as enrolling masters and PhD students.

However, we still have a lot more to do including:

- ◆ Developing stronger Industry relations to enhance the transfer of knowledge and technology
- ◆ Continue developing more African talent
- ◆ Increasing regional students and having an international marketing and specialization for African universities
- ◆ Enhancing regional policymaking and sustainable ACEs and a regional center of excellence program and scholarship program

Useful Resource Links:

<http://www.aau.org>
<http://www.worldbank.org>