ACCELERATING LOCAL POTENTIAL (ALP)

The Accelerating Local Potential (ALP) program will help build countries' scientific and technical capacity for research to address their own development challenges. ALP trains scientists in higher education institutions to conduct, communicate, and apply research to inform decisions that can ultimately sustain and expand development progress.

ALP is a program under the Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships Annual Program Statement (STIP APS). The program supports four projects that will help propel higher education institutions (HEIs) in low-and-middle income countries to become global leaders in scientific education and research, and to increase their presence as a source of knowledge and innovation for local government officials, policy makers, and other development actors. Through partnership with U. S.-based HEIs, ALP will help develop resilient and robust local institutions.

Higher Education Solutions Network 2.0

The ALP program under the STIP APS umbrella is part of the Higher Education Solutions Network 2.0 portfolio, composed of three new programs and two flagship programs.

New Programs:

- Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships Annual Program Statement (STIP APS) launched March 2018
- Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) launched July 2018
- Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) launched August 2018

Flagship Programs:

- Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN)
- Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

New Entrepreneurship Xchange for Transformation: Idea to Impact (NEXTi2i)

Ashesi University is partnering with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) D-Lab to develop a social enterprise incubator and fellowship program, which aim to refine and accelerate early-stage social ventures addressing global development challenges. The three main objectives of the program are to: 1) support recent Ashesi University alumni in successfully developing and growing social ventures, 2) teach lean and ethical research approaches for effectively engaging communities, and 3) convene the wider Ghanaian entrepreneurial ecosystem toward collective action.

Malawi University of Science and Technology - Innovation Scholars Program (MUST ISP)

Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources are partnering with Michigan State University to co-design and implement an Innovation Scholars Program at MUST. The new Innovation Scholars Program will help build capacity for innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research with a problem-solving orientation. The program will also strengthen the Malawi National Engineering Ecosystem Network to help connect all public universities in Malawi with the private sector and the Government of Malawi. The network will help develop a guidebook for future iterations of the program. The program will utilize workshops, experiential learning, and partnerships to promote science-driven solutions to development problems.

Higher Education Partnership for Innovation and Sustainable Biomedical Informatics Capacity in Kenya (PISBIC Kenya)

Moi University's Institute of Biomedical Informatics and Vanderbilt University Medical Center are leading a consortium to sustainably strengthen capacity in health informatics at Moi University and the larger sub-Saharan region. The partnership aims to advance the use of digital health technologies to improve health care quality, patient, and population health outcomes, and data-driven decision-making for health at individual, institutional, and government levels in Kenya and across the region. PISBIC Kenya focuses on threeareas: 1) building workforce capacity; 2) building evidence of impact, costs, and benefits of health informatics systems; and 3) producing locally responsive digital health solutions.

Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) 2020: Creating Institutional Statistical Analysis and Data Science Capacity

The University of Colorado Boulder will help build capacity of higher education institutions in low-and-middle income countries to meet the high demand for statisticians and data scientists. The project will help develop and expand the existing LISA 2020 Network, a collection of statistical collaboration laboratories ("stat labs") around the world that work to both develop capacity in statistics and data science and leverage this capacity to solve local development challenges. The University of Colorado Boulder will work in India, Ghana, and Nigeria and will focus on: 1) training statisticians to have a collaborative, evidence-to-action mindset; 2) teaching local development actors to become more capable of using data and more aware of the power of statistical analysis to inform decisions; and 3) providing a collaborative space for statisticians and data scientists to work with development actors to create data-driven innovations and solutions leading to widespread development impacts and outcomes.