

**Memorandum of Strategic Partnership
Between
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, USA
And
Moi University, Kenya**

Whereas the existing partnership between Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Moi University (MU) in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa is already one of the most significant international partnerships for either institution,

Whereas similarities in our structures and missions indicate there are many other arenas in which our two institutions can work together for mutual benefit and for the good of our surrounding communities, and

Whereas strong university partnerships have a critical role to play in building the international networks, dialogue, and understandings vital to life in the 21st century,

IUPUI and MU hereby dedicate themselves to developing a special, long-term and comprehensive collaboration based on principles of sustained reciprocity and mutual benefit and known as a **Strategic Partnership**.

The Distinctive Nature of Strategic Partnerships

Strategic Partnerships are long-term, comprehensive collaborations between two universities that advance the internationalization of each institution while also providing vital linkages for the communities in which these institutions are located. Not only do such partnerships strengthen the collective capacity of each partner for research, teaching, and civic engagement, they also infuse their respective communities with a spirit of international collaboration and interdependence.

In contrast to more ordinary university partnerships, Strategic Partnerships cut across disciplinary boundaries, harnessing the full capacity of each institution for work that is of significant mutual benefit. Strategic Partnerships reflect key interests of both university and community, create linkages to important areas of the world, and have the capacity to advance international learning, research, and engagement for all involved. Such Partnerships both model and encourage the international dialogue and collaboration that are critical to life in the 21st century. They also bring different academic disciplines, professions, and constituencies into sustained conversation with each other. And they enable resources to be focused, different efforts to be coordinated, and new initiatives to build on the work of previous ones.

The number of Strategic Partnerships for any university must be small. Strategic Partners are selected with great care, through lengthy discussion across a wide range of programs and constituencies. Strategic Partners are those in which both institutions have much to gain, with multiple units at each institution actively involved. They are also those in which the partners commit to sustaining a high level of mutual activity for a significant period of time, in some cases lasting well beyond the tenure of those who first proposed the partnership. .

With this distinctive Memorandum of Strategic Partnership, it is our hope that every graduate of IUPUI and every graduate of MU —undergraduate, graduate, and professional—will leave campus knowing something about each other’s lives and communities because they have encountered these in multiple contexts, both direct and indirect. It is also our hope that faculty across each institution and residents of our surrounding communities will develop long-term relationships that advance their work and link our nations. And finally, it is our hope that these experiences create a context for understanding how cities, nations, and peoples might work together for mutual benefit across national boundaries.

Our Shared Vision

IUPUI and MU share much in common. Both are public, urban, research universities with strong commitments to civic engagement. IUPUI was created in 1969 as a partnership between two world-class institutions of higher learning. MU was established by an Act of Parliament in 1984 to be one of the two leading public universities in Kenya. Both have become centers of innovation in institution-building, student learning, advanced research, and active involvement with their surrounding communities. Both see universities as playing a critical role in the health, well-being, and development of society. And both recognize the importance of thinking globally as well as locally.

Over the past 16 years, IUPUI and MU have developed a strong and extraordinarily productive collaboration in the field of medicine. Collaboration between the IU School of Medicine at IUPUI and the School of Health Sciences at MU has had an enormous impact upon the students and faculty who have participated. It has also had an enormous impact upon the many individuals in western Kenya who have been stricken by the HIV/AIDS epidemic during this time. The remarkable progress that the two medical schools have had in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and research now stands as an international model. It also demonstrates the power of robust, reciprocal university partnerships for tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our times. And it has drawn agencies, organizations, and individuals from both communities into active engagement with this work as well.

On the basis of this extraordinary collaboration in medicine, IUPUI and MU now dedicate themselves to developing collaborations in other arenas and in designating their relationship as a Strategic Partnership. Each institution has much to share and learn from the other. The expanded partnership will provide IUPUI students, faculty, and staff with a direct connection and deep understanding of sub-Saharan Africa, engaging them in issues of health, community development, and environmental concerns in that part of the world. The expanded partnership will provide MU students, faculty, and staff with a direct connection and deep understanding of the United States, as well as IUPUI’s

expertise in program and curriculum development, instructional technology, and research development. These new collaborations will complement and enhance those already in existence, while existing collaborations will provide a network of professional relationships and a deep base of knowledge about the other institution (and nation) for those now wishing to become involved.

Through this Strategic Partnership it is also hoped that many in our surrounding communities will develop a deeper understanding of the other country, an appreciation for its resources and strengths, and personal connections that will transform them in the way that hundreds of medical students and faculty have already been transformed. The university partnership will provide an opportunity for community organizations, businesses, and agencies to visit, learn about, and develop their own connections with their counterparts in the other country.

Our Shared Agenda: Creating a Comprehensive Framework for Further Collaboration

Expanding the IUPUI-MU collaboration to the level of a Strategic Partnership will provide opportunities for meaningful engagement in a host of new arenas as well as the pursuit of innovative and meaningful cross-field and interdisciplinary synergies. To advance these goals, IUPUI and MU herewith commit themselves to a long-term comprehensive collaboration, to include, but not be limited to joint projects in: faculty and curriculum development, institution building, student and faculty exchange, collaborative research projects, distance education, study abroad programming, joint degrees, and service learning.

To advance this agenda, IUPUI and MU commit themselves to:

- expanding their collaboration to new schools and units, both in the arts and sciences and in the professions
- establishing appropriate mechanisms to coordinate, prioritize, and oversee the collaboration at each university
- establishing effective and regular means of communication between the coordinating bodies at each university
- exploring where the two institutions can fruitfully share resources and make joint faculty appointments
- holding joint seminars, workshops, conferences, and symposia that advance the collaboration
- assisting each other in developing courses, workshops, lectures, videoconferences, and film series that enable students, faculty, staff, and the local community to develop a deep understanding of the other country

- supporting faculty, students, staff, and members of the local community in communicating with and visiting their counterparts at the other institution
- pursuing joint grants and other sources of external funding to support collaborative activities

IUPUI and MU also commit themselves to pursuing such activities in a spirit of openness, trust, reciprocity, and mutual coordination. To the greatest extent possible, activities will be jointly planned and jointly executed. The two universities will welcome each other's students, faculty, and staff, and encourage partnerships and dialogue among them. All new projects will be evaluated in terms of their impact and relevance to existing projects before being put into action.

This Strategic Partnership will be in place for ten years from its signing, with the possibility of renewal at the end of that time. For the first four years of the partnership, an annual review of progress, challenges, and plans for further development of the partnership will be conducted. Thereafter, such reviews will be conducted every two years. Specific and detailed Implementation Plans will be written for each major new initiative.

Signed on behalf of IUPUI:

Charles R. Bantz, Chancellor

Date:

Signed on behalf of Moi University:

David Some, Vice-Chancellor

Date: