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FOREWORD

Greetings from the Ghana Communication Technology University (GCTU), where we are committed to providing quality teaching, learning and innovative research experiences in the fields of information and communication technology, Engineering and the Business-related field.

In its quest and determination to provide quality education to its main stakeholders (students), GCTU also demonstrates its versatility in the dissemination of quality information about activities, issues and experiences on our Campuses that are eventful for the consumption of the University Community. The objective is to inform, educate and entertain members of the University Community, while keeping them abreast with what is current. This, the University has excelled in the production and publication of various policy documents, website publications, social media postings, newsflashes all of which provide an array of platforms for members of the University Community to explore to their advantage.

The GCTU Newsletter, which is a quarterly publication comes in as an additional, yet exciting piece with the proclivity to expand the source of reliable information to the University Community aside other official publications of the University.

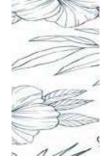
In this edition of the GCTU Newsletter, we are delighted to share with you some of the highlights and achievements of our University in the latter part of 2024. You will find out about news on the visionary infrastructural developments, monumental to the trending and rising corporate image of GCTU; local and international partnerships with academia and industry; our students' experiences and achievements; faculty and staff innovative projects, publications and collaborations all of which are making impact on society, to mention a few.

Your kind feedback and suggestions on how we can improve our communication and engagement with you through this piece and subsequent editions that would be published are considered invaluable to the quality outlook and presentation of information in the GCTU Newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and that you find it informative and inspiring. Please feel free to contact us at newsletter@gctu.edu.gh.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in GCTU. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dr. Nusrat-Jahan Abubakar
Director, University Relations/Editor-in-Chief.



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend my warmest greetings to every one of you through this inaugural edition of our University newsletter. As we reflect on the new year and all the possibilities therein, I am filled with pride at the achievements and advancements we have made as a University over the past years.

At GCTU, we are committed to excellence in all aspects of research and teaching, particularly in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Our dedication to providing relevant and cutting-edge ICT programmes is evident in the accreditation of several exciting programmes by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), including Data Science and Analytics, Cyber Security, Multimedia Technology, and Artificial Intelligence, among others.

Moreover, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the GCTU Centre for Innovation, Technology Skills, and Entrepreneurship Training (CITSET), which will serve as a

dynamic space for collaboration and innovation among students, faculty, and industry experts. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and creativity while providing students with the necessary resources to turn their ideas into reality.

Additionally, our efforts in enhancing the student experience extend beyond academic pursuits. The completion of the GCTU Multi-purpose Sports Complex is a testament to our dedication to promoting holistic development through sports and recreation. I encourage all students to take advantage of these facilities and engage in sporting activities that not only promote physical well-being, but also contribute to a positive mindset and overall academic success.

Furthermore, the "One Laptop, One Student" Project and the establishment of the Industrial Liaison Office are initiatives aimed at providing practical learning experiences and bridging the gap between academia and industry. Pursuant to the student learning experience agenda promotion is the signing of a number of Memorandum of Understanding between GCTU and industrial partners which our University is poised to sustain and enhance. These endeavours will undoubtedly enhance the quality of education and equip our graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their chosen fields.

As we embark on this journey of growth and development, I urge all members of the GCTU Community to uphold the values of integrity, excellence, and academic freedom that define our institution. Let us embrace the opportunities before us with enthusiasm and dedication, knowing that our collective efforts will contribute to the continued success and recognition of GCTU as a premier ICT university in Ghana and beyond.

This GCTU Newsletter, which would be launched in the course of this year, is designed to furnish you with information on the strategic efforts of the University in terms of infrastructural developments; staff developments; innovations; events; student activities; health and safety tit-bits and many exciting information. All are encouraged to embrace this mouthpiece as it enters the corridors of the GCTU annals.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the GCTU community for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision. Together, let us strive for excellence and innovation as we chart the course for a brighter future.

Warm regards,
Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa,
Vice-Chancellor, GCTU.

GCTU GOVERNING COUNCIL INAUGURATED BY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION



he Council members taking the oaths of office and secrecy

The newly-constituted 15-member Governing Council of GCTU has been officially inaugurated by the Minister for Education, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, at a brief but significant ceremony on 3rd June 2025 at the Ministry of Education's Conference Room.

The Council, which is chaired by a seasoned telecommunications expert, Mr. Divine D. K. Kpetigo, took the oaths of office and secrecy administered by the Minister. Mr. Kpetigo has decades of experience, including his tenure with Ghana Telecom, which later transitioned to Vodafone Ghana.



Hon. Haruna Iddrisu urges the new Council to position GCTU as a hub for Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation.

In his address, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu expressed deep personal and professional satisfaction in inaugurating the new Council, recalling his critical role in the establishment of the then Ghana Telecom University during his time as Minister for Communications.

"But for my actions and decisions back then, there would have been no Ghana Telecom University of Technology," he noted. "Despite the challenges – including accusations of bribery during the Vodafone acquisition – our commitment ensured that this institution survived and thrived."



Members of the Governing Council attentively following the Minister's address.

The Minister used the occasion to challenge the University to position itself as a niche institution in science, technology, engineering and innovative communication. He emphasized the government's vision to integrate Artificial Intelligence and coding into Ghana's basic education curriculum and encouraged GCTU to take a leading role in preparing the country for the digital future.

"We expect you to roll out academic training that will empower public and private institutions in Ghana with Al capabilities," he stated. "Let's explore how Ghana can move towards a paperless public service – a task GCTU is well-positioned to lead."

Hon. Iddrisu also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting the University's infrastructure and resource needs, including the completion of its multipurpose administration block, enhancement of ICT labs and provision of essential equipment and vehicles. He further mentioned ongoing discussions with the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) and the GETFund to secure additional funding for GCTU's developmental projects.

Mr. Kpetigo delivering his acceptance speech after being sworn in as Chair of the Governing Council.

Mr. Divine D. K. Kpetigo, in his acceptance remarks as Chair of the Governing Council, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Minister and acknowledged his instrumental role in preserving the University's legacy.



He concluded by calling for stronger institutional collaborations and renewed focus on aligning GCTU's academic direction with technological advancements critical to national and global development.

The other members of the Council are the Vice-Chancellor of GCTU, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa; the Director for Policy, Planning, Monitoringand Evaluation at the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Mavis Asare Donkor; Representatives of Convocation, Prof. George Oppong Ampong (professorial) and Mrs. Victoria Amoah (non-professorial); a Representative of the Conference of Assisted Secondary Schools, Mr. Baro Primus; and three nominees of the President, Madam Augustina Akonnor (Ph.D.), Nana Mieza Agyavo Assyne and Janet Owusu Afriyie.



Group Photo of the Newly-Inaugurated Council Members with the Minister

The rest are the SRC Representative, Mr. Gideon Asilenudzi; a Representative of the Alumni, Ms. Magdalene Lamptey; a Representative of GRASAG, Mr. Roger Tachie Doku Wills; a Representative of TEWU, Mr. Eric Adu-Gyamfi; a Representative of GAUA-GCTU, Dr. Kwame Owusu-Ansah Owusu Afram; and a Representative of UTAG, Dr. Patrick Acheampong.

The event was attended by the Deputy Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Clement Apaak, the Chief Director of the Ministry, Mrs. Mamle Andrews and other key officials as well as staff from the Ministry of Education.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa (left) posing with the Council Chairman after the event



Members of the new Council in a group picture.

PROF. EMMANUEL OHENE AFOAKWA HONOURED WITH LAUREATE OF DISTINCTION IN NATURAL SCIENCES AT 2025 MILLENNIUM EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Prof. Afoakwa (middle) receiving his award

GCTU proudly celebrates its Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa, who was honoured with the prestigious Laureate of Distinction in Natural Sciences at the 2025 Millennium Excellence Awards on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi, under the esteemed patronage of His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.

Prof. Afoakwa's award citation highlighted his significant contributions to cocoa and chocolate research, food science and nutrition and innovative food processing techniques. His work has led to improved food security, economic development and capacity building, earning both local and international acclaim for its impact on agricultural value chains and sustainable development. Prof. Afoakwa was honoured for his role in cocoa and chocolate research, and as a food scientist.

Beyond his academic achievements, Prof. Afoakwa serves as the Chief of Fiapre Traditional Area in the Bono Region, known by his stool name, Obrempong Professor Kyem-Amponsah II. His dual roles in academia and traditional leadership exemplify a commitment to national development and cultural heritage.

The 2025 Millennium Excellence Awards also recognised other distinguished academics, including Emeritus Professor Clifford Nii Boi Tagoe and Prof. Gordon A. Awandare, for their outstanding contributions to Mathematics and Science Excellence, and Biomedical Research, respectively.



On behalf of the GCTU management and the entire University community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa for this well-deserved honour. His dedication to scientific excellence and leadership continues to inspire and elevate the standards of education and research at GCTU and beyond.



FRONT DESK OFFICERS EMPOWERED WITH CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS



Participants actively engaging in one of the sessions.

The Centre for Strategic Business and Professional Development (CSPD), of GCTU has organized a three-day training programme to boost the customer service skills of Front Desk Officers from 5th to 7th May 2025, at the Forensic Lab, Tesano campus.



Participants being taken through a session by Dr. Afram.

The event, aimed at equipping front desk personnel with the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver exceptional service, build strong customer relationships and create memorable experiences.



Mrs. Hackman Akanji, Director of CSBPD, delivering an insightful session on customer-centric service, personal grooming, and professional etiquette

In her presentation, the Director of CSBPD, Mrs. Araba Hackman Akanji and a Facilitator highlighted the crucial role of Front Desk Executives (FDE) as the first point of contact between an organization and its customers. By being the "bridge" between the two, they play a vital role in representing the organization, understanding and catering for customer needs. She outlined some key responsibilities of FDE, including:

- · Welcoming guests
- · Answering calls and providing relevant information
- · Managing appointments and messages
- · Directing visitors appropriately
- Keeping records and maintaining order at the front desk area.

Mrs. Hackman Akanji, underscoring the importance of a customer, said, that in recognizing the diversity of customers, whether they are individuals or organizations, it is important to tailor services to meet their unique needs, preferences and expectations. She further added that, by doing so, organizations/businesses can deliver effective service, build strong relationships, foster loyalty and drive growth. "This customer-centric approach is crucial for success in today's competitive market," she indicated.



Mrs. Hackman Akanji (right) presenting a certificate to a participant.

Mrs. Hackman Akanji discussed personal grooming, noting that it is essential for boosting self confidence, projecting professionalism, influencing one' emotions, making one adaptable to any environment and maintaining a positive and confident demeanor. According to her, good personal habits can contribute to a self-image and this makes a favourable impression on others. "By prioritizing personal grooming, individuals project a positive image, feel more confident in their personal and professional image," she said. Mrs. Hackman.

personal and professional image," she said. Mrs. Hackman Akanji also covered the following topics:

- · Communication and Etiquette
- · Building professional skills
- · Time management
- · Handling difficult situations with professionalism

She ended her presentation with a quote: "Customers may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."- Maya Angelou.



Participants were drawn from GCTU and other institutions

The Head of Admissions, Dr. Kwame Owusu-Ansah Afram, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa and Management extended his gratitude to the facilitator for her expertise and effort and the participants for their active commitment and engagement in the training. He highlighted the diverse range of programmes offered by GCTU. Dr. Afram stressed on the importance of excellent customer service, urging participants to deliver high quality service and uphold ethics. He shared the Golden Rule: "Treat others the way you want to be treated." This timeless principle, he indicated, promotes respect, empathy and kindness. Dr. Afram emphasized that by applying this rule individuals can foster positive relationships, build trust and create a more harmonious environment.



The Head of Admissions giving his presentation.

The training session concluded on a high note with certificates awarded to participants, recognizing their completion and newfound skills.



Dr. Afram (right) presenting a certificate to a participant



Trainees pose with Mrs. Araba Hackman Akanji and Dr. Kwame Owusu-Ansah Afram after completing the three day training

GCTU BIDS FAREWELL TO ING. ISAAC KWEKU HANSON



Ing. Hanson (middle) receiving a citation in recognition of hisoutstanding contribution to the Faculty of Engineering and GCTU at large.

GCTU's Faculty of Engineering has bid a heartfelt farewell to Ing. Isaac Kweku Hanson, the outgoing Head of Department for Telecom Engineering, a revered lecturer, in an emotional ceremony held at the faculty's conference room on May 29, 2025, marking the end of his remarkable career.

The event honoured Ing. Hanson's remarkable contribution to the University, bringing together faculty members within and outside the faculty and administrative staff to express heartfelt appreciation for his 18 years of dedicated service (2007-2025).

work on the M.Sc. Telecom Engineering and Telecom Management programmes.



A celebratory cake cutting in appreciation of Ing. Hanson's service and to wish him well in retirement.

The Acting Pro-VC expressed appreciation for Ing. Hanson's contribution, noting that his departure would be deeply felt, especially given his role in establishing the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology Support Services (ITSS). Prof. Malcalm concluded by extending the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa's congratulations to Ing. Hanson on his retirement.



Ing. Hanson reflected on his 18-year journey at GCTU

Speaking at the ceremony, the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ebenezer Malcalm, praised Ing. Hanson's affable and gentle nature, recalling their initial meeting where he provided valuable insights into the University's history and development. He highlighted his humility, crisis management skills and collaborative



Acting Pro VC commending Ing. Hanson's humility, leadership and pioneering role in the development of Telecom Engineering programmes.



Dr. Abubakar recounts the support and calm leadership of Ing. Hanson

Giving her remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Ruhiya Abubakar, expressed her heartfelt appreciation to Ing. Hanson for his remarkable tenure and contributions. "As his former student and colleague, I have fond memories of working with him. I recall when I transitioned from the Graduate School to the Faculty of Engineering, he provided invaluable support. His calm demeanour in challenging situations is truly admirable," Dr. Abubakar elaborated.

In his farewell speech, Ing. Hanson expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Management and the University community for the opportunity to serve, highlighting his appreciation for the experience and relationships built during his tenure. He emphasized that dedication is crucial to success, highlighting the importance of focusing on areas of interest. Ing. Hanson further stressed the value of patriotism, inspiring the audience with his parting words. He wished the faculty continued success and growth.



Faculty members popped champagne with warm smiles.

Goodwill messages were received from Deans, faculty members, fellow lecturers and administrative staff, including Dr. William Brown-Acquaye, Mr. Thomas Henaku, Ing. Kyere Frempong, Mrs. Nana Aba Ledger and Mr. Gabriel Gidisu, further highlighting Ing. Hanson's impact and the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.



Heartfelt tributes from various individuals and Departments were paid to the outgoing Head of Department.



Group photo with faculty and administrative staff

GCTU ENGAGES TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES FOR LARGE-SCALE HOSTEL DEVELOPMENT UNDER PPP MODEL



VC and a representative from KPMG sign the Transaction Advisory Services agreement to kickstart the University's large-scale hostel development project.

GCTU has signed a partnership deal with KPMG as a transaction advisor to facilitate a suitable private developer for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement on Friday, April 4, 2025, at the VC's boardroom.

This collaboration aims to deliver a proposed project, specifically a 2,436 bed hostel facility for students, through a PPP arrangement, aligning with the PPP Act, 2020, Act (1039).



The two institutions commit to collaborating on the University's transformative hostel development project.

Speaking at the short ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa, said the partnership with KPMG marked a significant milestone in the University's efforts to enhance its infrastructure and provide world-class facilities for its students. He highlighted the long journey to reach this milestone, stating that, the project began in 2019 with a feasibility study, which was completed and submitted to the Ministry of Finance and after several processes, the

project was deemed feasible, but required another consultant for the final phase. "We have been working on this project since 2019. We are very excited that at long last, we have been able to go through the procurement process. We really appreciate your expertise and we know what you are able to do," Prof. Afoakwa noted.



Prof. Afoakwa highlighted the significance of the partnership and the long journey since the inception of the project

Earlier, the Head of Procurement, Ms. Fatu Esi Sesay gave a brief background on the project. Ms. Sesay touched on the procurement process for the engagement of the Transaction Advisor, highlighting the importance of transparency and competitiveness.



Officials from GCTU in attendance

"Today we are here for the signing of the contract between GCTU and KPMG. Although the Ministry of Finance is a signatory to this contract, they are not present, but they have instructed us to proceed with our part and send the documents to them for signing. So, today, we are here to fulfill our part of the contract," she emphasized.



Representatives from KPMG signing their part of the document

The contract duration between the two institutions spans three (3) months, starting immediately.



The VC and KPMG official pose for a photograph, capturing the moment and the spirit of collaboration.



Officials from GCTU and KPMG pose for a group photo following the formalization of the strategic partnership

GCTU HOSTS BLOCKCHAIN WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH CELO DAO GHANA



Over 60 GCTU students from various departments participated in the training programme.

Participants engaging with facilitators during the session.

The Industrial Liaison Department in partnership with Celo DAO, has successfully hosted a transformative workshop for students on blockchain technology on 30th May 2025. The workshop was aimed at empowering students with practical skills to build decentralized applications on the Celo platform.

The session, facilitated by Celo Ghana leads Mr. Ernest Akakpo and Mr. Ebenezer Boateng, alongside guest blockchain innovators, introduced students to the fundamentals of blockchain, smart contract development and real-world applications of the Celo ecosystem.

In an interview on the sidelines of the workshop, Mr. Akakpo explained that, "Celo is like a blockchain – just like Ethereum or Bitcoin – but it's focused on Africa. Through Celo Africa DAO, we aim to expose students to the power of blockchain and the opportunities it presents. We're teaching them not only what blockchain is but also how to build real applications on the Celo platform."

He emphasized that blockchain is more than just digital currencies, citing the growing global demand for skills in smart contract development and Decentralized Finance (DeFi). "For instance, a student from Accra Technical University recently secured an international opportunity as a smart contract developer. These are the kinds of prospects we want to open up for GCTU students," he added.

During the hands-on session, participants were introduced to blockchain development languages and built a simple escrow application, demonstrating the value of the Celo platform.

The initiative is part of a broader series of campus outreach programmes run by Celo Ghana across the country, including workshops at KNUST, UCC, HTU, and UHAS. Mr. Akakpo noted that the engagement at GCTU had been particularly impressive, praising the students for their enthusiasm and curiosity.

"The turnout was great – over 50 students actively participated. They were really eager to learn, and that's exactly what we want to see. We're not just talking about blockchain – we're helping students build on it."



Participants being taken through practical blockchain coding exercises with guidance from industry experts.

A facilitator walking students through the architecture of decentralized applications using the Celo platform.

The event brought together more than 60 students from various Departments of the University, all eager to explore the world of blockchain beyond cryptocurrency. The workshop forms part of Celo DAO's broader mission to promote financial inclusion and digital innovation across Africa.

The workshop concluded with a call for continuous learning, as participants were encouraged to join Celo's developer communities and take advantage of further training and grant opportunities.



A facilitator walking students through the architecture of decentralized applications using the Celo platform.



Facilitators and student participants posing for a group photo after the workshop.

GCTU LAUNCHES GAIATHON '25 COMPETITION



The Registrar, joined by the Deans of Engineering and Student Affairs and other staff unveiling the local chapter of GAIA

GCTU has successfully launched and established the local Chapter of the GEO-Africa Incubator/Accelerator Innovation Challenge 2025 (GAIAthon '25), on April 3, 2025, at the Vice-Chancellor's Conference Room.

The theme for this year's GAIAthon, "Empowering Africa Youth to Innovate with IoT and Earth Observation," aims at empowering Africa's youth with the technological skills necessary to address the continent's environmental and developmental challenges with practical training.

Delivering a speech on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. EmmanuelOhene Afoakwa, the Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo, noted that the VC's vision is to transform GCTU into a leading technology and innovation hub, aiming to make it the "Silicon Valley" of Ghana and the West Africa sub-region. This vision he said, is reflected in the University's focus on ICT education and its commitment to fostering innovation and technological advancements. "This initiative aligns perfectly with that vision by fostering technological advancement, research and entrepreneurship thinking among students," he emphasized.

The Registrar highlighted the importance of initiatives like GAIAthon in unlocking Africa's vast potential. By providing a platform for talented individuals to showcase their skills and innovations, GAIAthon can help drive growth, development and progress in the region. He underscored the importance of innovation challenges, mentorship and collaboration in helping students develop practical and impactful solutions. Mr. Baidoo encouraged the participants to embrace this opportunity and make most of it

"Your journey in GAIAthon '25 could be the beginning of something remarkable," he stated.

Speaking at the event via Zoom, the Founder of Edenway Foundation and Director of the GAIA Programme, Prof. George Wiafe, indicated that GAIAthon '25 aims to foster an atmosphere of technological literacy among university students across Africa. He observed that this would empower students to innovate in EO and IoT within their academic disciplines, stating that the youth are the torchbearers who will drive development in Africa. Prof. Wiafe elaborated that Edenway Foundation is poised to harness and equip Africa's youth skills and resources needed to be leaders in sustainable development. He shed insights on how GAIAthon '25 will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to make a meaningful impact, highlighting that this can be achieved through three key objectives:

- Fostering innovation and collaboration
- · Enhancing technological skills
- · Recognizing excellence



Discussions held ahead of the launch of GAIAHON Competition

Prof. Wiafe further stated that Africa stands at the intersection of growth and innovation, stressing that it has a unique opportunity to drive meaningful progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by leveraging these technological advancements.

The Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. Michael Nana Owusu-Akomeah, emphasized that every individual has hidden talents waiting to be uncovered, stressing that GCTU is actively working to nurture these talents, particularly in the field of technology and innovation. He noted that the University continues to gain recognition due to the exceptional students they have trained, who are making a significant impact in various organizations.

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The Dean of Students Affairs giving his remarks

Earlier, in her remarks, the Dean of the Engineering Faculty and Coordinator of the programme, Dr. Ruhiya Abubakar, underscored the importance of innovation and technology in addressing real-world challenges. She stated that the innovation challenge aims to promote the adoption of Earth Observation (EO) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, create a collaborative platform for students and industry experts and enhance capacity building in emerging technologies, ultimately building a pipeline of talent by leveraging EO, IoT and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. Dr. Abubakar outlined the rules and regulations governing the competition including aspects such as team composition, project requirements and the evaluation process.



A group picture of participants after the event

GCTU PARTNERS WITH MASTERCARD FOUNDATION TO EMPOWER FUTURE AFRICAN LEADERS



Prof. Hinson giving his remarks at the event

GCTU has successfully hosted the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme on April 10, 2025, at the Florence Onny Auditorium.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme is designed to nurture young leaders from across Africa who possess transformative leadership potential and a deep commitment to community development. It supports academically gifted individuals, particularly females, refugees and persons with disabilities, to overcome financial barriers and pursue university education.

Delivering the keynote address, GCTU's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Robert Ebo Hinson, emphasized the foundation's long-standing dedication to education, economic empowerment and leadership development across Africa. He introduced the PREPARE framework, a roadmap for students aspiring to become exceptional graduates and scholarship recipients:

- P Proactive Learning
- R Research Experience
- E Excellence in Academics
- P Purpose-Driven Goals
- A Active Engagement
- R Refined Communication Skills
- E Endorsements and References

The Programmes Manager of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme at the University of Pretoria, Dr. Efe Isike, outlined the programme's mission to build the next generation of African changemakers. She highlighted four core pillars:

- •Academic Excellence Supporting top-performing students. •Financial Support – Removing economic barriers to education.
- •Financial Support Removing economic barners to education.
- Leadership Development Fostering leadership capacity.
 Community Engagement Promoting social responsibility.



The Programmes Manager at the University of Pretoria, Dr. Efe Isike delivering her presentation

She also detailed the programme's comprehensive support which includes tuition fees, medical aid, transportation, leadership training, entrepreneurship development and community engagement opportunities. Eligibility criteria, cleadership potential, and a demonstrated commitment to community service.

The Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo, expressed pride in hosting the event, reaffirming the University's dedication to inclusive education and academic excellence. "The Mastercard Foundation is widely recognised for its investment in young people and support programme designed to empower academically gifted yet economically disadvantaged students to realise their potential," he emphasized. He proposed a strategic partnership between GCTU and the Foundation to train human capital not only for Ghana, but for the global stage.



The Pro. VC (right) together with the Registrar (middle) and the Dean of the Engineering Faculty (left) took turns to address the participants.



A group picture of participants after the event

Also speaking at the event, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Ruhiya Abubakar, welcomed the collaboration and noted the Foundation's special emphasis on engineering education. She acknowledged the University of Pretoria's unique support for engineering students under the programme and expressed hope for deeper academic partnerships. The event marked a significant step in the University's commitment to empowering talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds through access to quality higher education.

GCTU STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH STRATEGIC MEETINGS



The GCTU team in a working session with Deans and Heads of Department of AMEU

GCTU has taken a significant step in fostering academic collaborations by engaging in strategic partnership meetings with multiple universities from 16th – 17th May, 2025, in Monrovia, Liberia. The strategic meetings aimed at fostering collaborative growth, strengthening existing ties and driving mutual development with African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) University, while solidifying relationships and exploring new opportunities.



Prof. Afoakwa (right) presenting a gift to the President of AMEU, Dr. Alvin Atta

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa, delivered remarks at each of the separate meetings with the various universities, emphasizing that GCTU is Ghana's specialized Information Technology institution, driving human capital development for digitalization. He emphasized the importance of GCTU expanding its services to other West African countries by leveraging Ghana's strong presence on the continent. "We have built capacity over time and we do not have to operate in isolation. We have come to Liberia for collaboration with other institutions," Prof. Afoakwa remarked. He further noted that we are in the fourth industrial revolution, where things are changing rapidly and there is a need to keep pace with emerging technologies.

GCTU & A.M.E University

- Assessed A.M.E University's readiness and evaluation of its technological infrastructure
- Discussed co-curricular development in the IT and Computer Science fields
- Introduction and implementation of GCTU's selected programmes at AME University.

GCTU & Starz University

- · Shared GCTU's PhD programmes in Computer Science and IT
- · Explored the idea of enabling faculty exchange.

GCTU & Blue Crest University

- · Explored shared GCTU's PhD programmes
- Faculty exchange
- · Collaboration on co-curricular activities.

GCTU & University of Liberia

 Discussed a potential MoU for GCTU's Professional Development Courses and Online

Teaching & Learning initiatives

Explored collaboration opportunities or GCTU's PhD programmes.



The VC, Prof. Afoakwa, exchanging pleasantries with the Director of University Relations of AMEU, Mr. Kyne (2nd left). Also in the shot: Prof. Ebenezer Malcalm (left) and Dr. William Brown-Acquaye (right).

The GCTU officials who accompanied the VC were the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ebenezer Malcalm and the Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Systems, Dr. William Brown-Acquaye.



Prof. Afoakwa presenting a gift to the Vice President (Academic) of AMEU, Dr. Timothy Kie.



Some of the Deans and HoDs at the working session at AMEU

ICDE OFFICE RENOVATION HANDED OVER TO GCTU MANAGEMENT



Mr. Koomson handing over the certificate of completion of work on behalf of the VC and Management

GCTU has formally received the newly renovated office space of the Institute of Continuing and Distance Education (ICDE) in a brief but symbolic ceremony held on Monday, May 5, 2025.

The renovation, carried out by Pelotron Group Ghana Ltd, forms part of a campus-wide infrastructure improvement initiative being spearheaded by the Vice-Chancellor to enhance

academic and administrative spaces across the University.



The ceremony taking place within the office of the ICDE

Though the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Works and Physical Development, Surv. Gordon Baapiri, were unable to attend the ceremony due to other commitments, Mr. Samuel Koomson spoke on behalf of the Directorate. He noted that the renovation began in late March or early April and forms part of a campus-wide upgrade agenda. "This renovation reflects our VC's commitment to improving student and staff experience. As part of the process, we are today taking interim possession of the project which now enters a six-month defect liability period. During this time, any issues that arise will be corrected by the

contractor before final handover," Mr. Koomson explained.



Mr. Owusu expressing gratitude to GCTU management for the opportunity to undertake the renovation.

Representing the Director of Pelotron Group Ghana Ltd., Mr. Godwin Owusu expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to the University's development. "We thank management for trusting us. We are hopeful for future collaboration and are committed to delivering even more outstanding work," he said.



The Director of ICDE acknowledging the Vice-Chancellor's support for the renovation project.

The Director of ICDE, Dr. Frank Senyo Loglo, commended the efforts of all involved including the Directorate of Works and Physical Development and the Procurement team. He underscored the importance of the renovation in advancing GCTU's Silicon Valley-inspired digital transformation agenda.

"This project is a testament to our collective commitment to improving distance learning in Ghana. We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor for fulfilling his promise. The transformation of this space reflects the priority placed on distance education and we are committed to growing our programmes in response," Dr. Loglo stated.

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A section of the newly renovated ICDE office with enhanced facilities.



Group photo of GCTU staff, ICDE representatives and Pelotron contractors at the end of the brief ceremony.

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