



KUSAT DIAC 2026

DIASPORA INNOVATION & AI CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

Connecting Global Talent to Driving Innovation, Shape the Future of AI and Strengthening Diaspora Engagement

📅 June 24–25, 2026

📍 Marymount University, Washington D.C.

Marymount University



DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026 | AI, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Time 8:00 – 9:00

Format REGISTRATION

Session Title Delegate Registration & Networking Breakfast

Moderator Facilitator, Dr. Ouma Otieno

Time 9:00 – 9:15

Format CEREMONY

Session Title Official Welcome — Setting the Stage

Speaker(s) Fr. Gabriel (Prayer and Welcome)

Moderator (emcee, Liz Njuguna)

Theme Pillar Cross-cutting

Time 9:15 – 10:00

Format KEYNOTE

Session Title Africa in the Age of AI: Why Sovereignty Starts Here

Speaker(s) Amb. David Kerich

Moderator (emcee, Dr. Ouma Mak'Ouma)

Theme Pillar AI & Emerging Technologies

Time 10:00 – 10:50

Format DEBATE

Session Title Who Controls Africa's AI Future?

Speaker(s)

- Humphrey Muchuma
- John Paul Okwiri

- Karani Namunyu technologies
- Deborah Kariuki

Moderator Dr. Jean-Leah Njoroge

Theme Pillar AI & Emerging Technologies

Time 10:50 – 11:05

Format BREAK

Session Title Morning Break & Exhibition

Time 11:05 – 11:45

Format FIRESIDE

Session Title We Tried. We Failed. We Built Again.

Speaker(s) Isaac Rashid Agina
Joanne Marime

Moderator Brian George

Theme Pillar Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time 11:45 – 12:30

Format KEYNOTE

Session Title Digital Transformation in Africa

Speaker(s) Dana L. Banks
Celina Lee

Moderator (Facilitator, Gerald Moore)

Theme Pillar AI & Emerging Technologies

Time 12:30 – 1:30

Format BREAK

Session Title Lunch Break & Sponsor Exhibition

Time 1:30 – 2:15

Format PANEL

Session Title Can AI Save African Healthcare — or Break It?

Speaker(s) Dr. Pauline Otieno
Dr. Vane Gichana
Dr. John Gachogo

Moderator Dr. James Muruthi

Theme Pillar AI & Emerging Technologies

Time 2:15 – 3:00

Format PANEL

Session Title The AI Infrastructure Imperative: Data Centers, Power, Cooling & Networks in Africa

Speaker(s) Dr. Ichatha Kamanu
Eng. James Rege
Dr. Lawrence Nderu

Moderator Dr. Jean-Leah Njoroge

Theme Pillar AI Infrastructure

Time 3:00 – 3:15

Format BREAK

Session Title Afternoon Networking Break

Time 3:15 – 4:00

Format LIGHTNING

Session Title Four Big Ideas in 45 Minutes

Speaker(s) Titus (Carerra) Kariuki
Dr. Gordon Ogutu
Prof. Jonathan K. Ngugi
John Paul Okwiri

Moderator Emmanuel Kieti

Theme Pillar Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time 4:00 – 4:45

Format WORKSHOP

Session Title Build an AI Startup in 45 Minutes – Live Design Sprint

Speaker(s) Humphrey Muchuma
Owen Sakawa

Moderator (Facilitator, Jude Kikuyu)

Theme Pillar Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time 4:45 – 5:25

Format FIRESIDE

Session Title VC Fireside: Africa's Universities as the AI Innovation Engine

Speaker(s) Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi
Prof. Charles O. Ochola

Moderator Brian George

Theme Pillar STEM Talent & Future of Work

Time 5:25 – 5:35

Format CEREMONY

Session Title Day 1 Wrap-Up & Preview of Day 2

Speaker(s) Brian Georgei (Emcee)

Theme Pillar Cross-cutting

Time 5:35 – 6:30

Format NETWORKING

Session Title Evening Networking Reception

DAY 2 — THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 | Talent, Diaspora & Opportunity

Time 8:30 – 9:00

Format REGISTRATION

Session Title Day 2 Check-In & Morning Networking

Time 9:00 – 9:10

Format CEREMONY

Session Title Day 2 Welcome & Day 1 Highlights Reel

Speaker(s) Mercy Maseki (Emcee)

Time 9:10 – 9:50

Format KEYNOTE

Session Title Diaspora in Power: What Representation Really Means

Speaker(s) Rep. Huldah N. Hiltzley

Moderator (Facilitator, Liz Njuguna)

Time 9:50 – 10:40

Format DEBATE

Session Title DIASPORA DEBATE: Are We Helping or Hurting?

Speaker(s) Prof. Jonathan K. Ngugi
Dr. Fidelis Ndombera

Owen Sakawa
Deborah Kariuki

Moderator Aysher Wairimu

Theme Pillar Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time 10:40 – 10:55

Format BREAK

Session Title Morning Break & Exhibition

Time 10:55 – 11:40

Format PANEL

Session Title Breaking Into AI When You Didn't Study Computer Science

Speaker(s) Prof. Enan Muhire Nyesheja
Dr. Jane Waithera
Dr. Vane Gichana

Moderator Dr. James Muruthi

Theme Pillar STEM Talent & Future of Work

Time 11:40 – 12:20

Format FIRESIDE

Session Title Diaspora Investment: What Actually Works

Speaker(s) Dr. Gordon Ogutu
Dr. Robert Chiuri
Hon. Martin Moshisho Martine

Moderator Brian George

Theme Pillar Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time 11:20 – 1:20

Format BREAK

Session Title Lunch Break & Sponsor Showcase

Time 1:20 – 1:30

Format SPOTLIGHT

Session Title Sponsor Spotlight: Diaspora Property & Investment Opportunities

Speaker(s) Nawaz Juneja

Moderator (Facilitator, Mary Okolla)

Theme Pillar Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time 1:30 – 3:00

Format SHOWCASE

Session Title DIAC Innovation Showcase: Startup & Project Pitches
"Participating startups & project teams"

Speaker(s) Morris Mbetsa
Judges: Joan Mbesya & Dr. Verrah Otiende

Moderator (Facilitator, Mercy Maseki)

Theme Pillar Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time 3:00 – 3:45

Format LAB

Session Title Partnership Lab: Structured Deal-Making & Collaboration

Speaker(s) Julius Kemei
Terry Irungu
Karimi Igeria
Danish Rayola

Moderator Edwin Makini

Theme Pillar Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time 3:45 – 4:20

Format PANEL

Session Title Closing Roundtable: One Commitment Each — Building the Kenya-USA Tech Bridge

Speaker(s) Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi
Prof. Charles O. Ochola
Dr. Lawrence Nderu

Moderator Brian George

Theme Pillar Cross-cutting

Time 4:20 – 4:40

Format CALL TO ACTION

Session Title Conference Recommendations

Speaker(s) Dr. Verrah Otiende

Moderator Facilitator, Dr. Verrah Otiende

Theme Pillar Cross-cutting

Time 4:40 – 5:30

Format CEREMONY

Session Title Awards, Acknowledgements & Official Conference Close

Speaker(s) Rep. Huldah N. Hiltisley
Amb. David Kerich
Hon. Martin Moshisho

Moderator Facilitator, Dr. Ouma Mak'Ouma

Theme Pillar Cross-cutting

Time 5:30 – 6:30

Format NETWORKING

Session Title Closing Networking Reception

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS



AMB. DAVID KERICH
Embassy of Kenya, Washington
DC



CELINA LEE
Co-founder and the CEO of
Zindi



**PROF MWENDA
NTARANGWI**
Vice Chancellor, USIU-Africa



**PROF. CHARLES O.
OCHOLA**
Vice Chancellor



DR. VANE GICHANA
Professor University of St. Thomas



**HULDAH N. HILTSLEY, MBA,
CIPP/E, CHPSE**
Minnesota House of Representative



ENG. JAMES REGE
Former MP and ICT PS



**DR. PAULINE OTIENO-
KIBISU**
Healthcare provider



GORDON OGUTU, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher,
Dublin City University



DR. LAWRENCE NDERU
Senior Lecturer, and Researcher in
AI/ML | Founder JHUB Africa



FIDELIS NDOMBERA BSC.
Study Lead QC Scientist III at
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**JEAN-LEAH NJOROGE,
PhD**
Sr. IP Licensing Manager



**PROF. ENAN MUHIRE
NYESHEJA**
UNILAK University



**HON. MARTIN MOSHISHO
MARTINE**
Deputy Governor, Kajiado County



PROF. JONATHAN K. NGUGI
Associate professor, University of
Lay Adventists of Kigali



DR. JOHN GACHAGO
VP Digital Innovation,
Parrish Medical Center.



ENG. JAMES REGE
Former MP and ICT PS



DR. ROBERT CHIURI
President & CEO, One
Voice Consortium and
Food Security



DR. JANE WAITERA
HR Leader
IT Firm in Northern Virginia



JOHN PAUL OKWIRI
CEO, Konza Technopolis



DEBORAH KARIUKI
Assistant Teaching Professor
University of Maryland, Baltimore
County



NAWAZ JUNEJA
Senior Sales Partner
Unity Homes



ISAAC RASHID AGINA
Social Entrepreneur and
Experienced Educator



HUMPHREY MUCHUMA
Founder & Group CEO, INUA AI
Group



**TITUS (CARRERA)
KARIUKI**
AI Use Case Strategist



BRIAN GEORGE
NTV Kenya News Anchor &
Global Moderator



DANISH RAYOLA
AI Governance, Data Privacy &
Cybersecurity Law Expert



KARANI NAMUNYU, MBA
Sr. Advisor Global market
operations, Dell Technologies



OWEN SAKAWA
Founder, CEO & Global AI
Safety & Governance Leader



MORRIS MBETSA
Founder Numeral IOT USA



DANA L. BANKS
Nonresident Senior Fellow
Atlantic Council's Africa Center.



NaviSmart AI

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