



# Scholars Program

## Quotes for Media Use

“Through a network of extraordinary partners, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program is enabling thousands of bright and deserving young people to access quality education and develop as leaders who give back to their communities and help to improve the lives of others. Mastercard Foundation Scholars and Alumni are leaders and innovators; activists and entrepreneurs; tackling everything from climate change to health inequity. Their collective impact will be felt for generations to come.” — **Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation**

“Our partnership with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program is exceptional and has enabled us to fulfill our vision for the post-secondary school years. Every child matters and the Foundation looks at justice in the broadest possible sense, from the most impoverished [and] marginalized child to the most powerful institution with whom they work. And there is authenticity at every point on that trajectory.” — **Ann Cotton, Founder and Trustee of CAMFED International**

“Where do I hope the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program will be in 10 years? I hope that it will have an alumni network that is so vibrant that Scholars from the first classes are choosing to invest in the success of the incoming cohort. That is the single thing that we must get. If we get that right, we will have a metaphor that does not work in most of Africa, but we will have a snowball rolling downhill and gaining momentum in size as it goes.” — **Chris Bradford, Founder and Chairman, African Leadership Academy**

“The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program has been a great means for EARTH University to increase awareness of issues of climate change, especially in rural areas, and around agriculture, in Africa. Before the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, we had a small percentage of African students in our program who faced different but connected, climate change challenges compared to Latin America. And for us, it has been a great opportunity to learn more about other realities and also to contribute with the thinking and the learning of the past few decades.” — **Arturo Condo, President of EARTH University**

“My hope for the Scholars Program is that by 2030 we have hundreds and hundreds of leader-driven networks throughout Africa that are transforming everything.” — **Professor Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University**

“The Mastercard Foundation set up this Program that really put everybody on a level playing field, and completely changed the game for those students that (so needed) support. It was very clear to the Mastercard Foundation, that the students—the young people—were the North Star.” — **Patrick Awuah, President and Founder of Ashesi University**

“Thanks to the belief in our objectives, in our mission, in our dreams, Mastercard Foundation believed in us, even though they were just getting to know us. With time, with the success of the Mastercard Scholars Program, with the success of the students that came, integrated to our EARTH community. With the success, they had when they went back to Africa, and the relationship that was formed between Latin America and Africa, I think that made the Scholars Program so important. I think it's because of the belief, and commitment of the institutions, a belief that this is what we have to do. I still believe that what Mastercard Foundation is doing is really changing the world. Changing it in Africa, but also changing it in Latin America and in the Middle East. By having these interactions, I hope that our graduates will make a difference in the world, and they are making it already.” — **Dr. José Zaglul, Former President and President Emeritus, EARTH University**

“Many Scholars have said, and rightly so, that Africa’s made impediment to development is the lack of leadership. The ultimate aim of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program is to develop leaders for Africa.” — **Dr. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University**

## **Scholars and Alumni**

“Besides having access to listening ears, the comprehensiveness of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program played an immense role in who I have become. By not having to worry about food, the cost of living and books, I had enough quality time to prepare myself for post-graduation life. [I took advantage of] the full benefits of Ashesi’s diverse culture by hanging out with international students. I also benefitted a lot from Scholars’ development initiatives such as the summer internship fund, which sponsored my first internship. Through the internships and from interacting with my colleagues at Ashesi, I learned to engage meaningfully in professional conversations and adapt to new cultures. Goldman Sachs employed me largely because of these qualities, not my technical skills.” — **Maxwell Aladago, Graduate of Ashesi University under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program**

“Throughout my journey as a Mastercard Foundation Scholar, it has always been about being a better version of yourself so that you can go back to your community and help others.” — **Joanna Gunab, Graduate of the University for Development Studies**

“Being a Scholar means that I am a transformative leader, devoted to bringing economic and social change in my home country, in my region, and the whole African continent.” — **Godiolla Akimana is currently a Mastercard Foundation at the American University of Beirut**

“Each and every one of us is a product of partnership and if we are going to give back to our communities, we have to consider the power of collaboration. For the first time in history, young Africans are leaving the continent in large groups to pursue academic and professional opportunities with the promise of coming back and giving back. And I believe we can transform our lives and those of our respective communities by working together.” — **Madit D. Ring Yel, Graduate of Arizona State University, Compliance Analyst.**

“I am always reminded of my privilege to have attained the education I have today, and I am forever indebted to everyone who helped me achieve my dream. As international organizations and African governments embark on developing the strategies, policies, and practices that will support progress against the SDG’s let them not forget that education underpins it all. And that dream is what sustains us and keeps us engaged in building a bright future for those who will come after us.” — **Patricie Uwase, Graduate of the University of California Berkeley, Minister of State at the Ministry of Infrastructure in Rwanda.**

“With the help of the Mastercard Foundation, I have been able to attain a world-class education not only once but twice. This exposure opened doors for me where I met like-minded people who are passionate about solving African problems. It was with these experiences that I launched my own social venture, Hepta Analytics.” — **Rahab Wangari, Graduate of Ashesi University and CMU-Africa, Founder of Hepta Analytics.**

“[Mastercard Foundation] is like my father. The organization paid my fees and invested in my business. I just want to thank the Foundation for believing in me and my dreams.” — **Ebenezer Addo Tenkorang, Graduate of Ashesi University**