

MESSAGE FROM PROVOST:

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DURBAR AND COLLOQUIUM

Registrar, Provosts, Deans and other officials of the University;
Minister of State for Tertiary Education;
Faculty, Staff and Students of the College of Education;
Members of the College Advisory Board;
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of management, faculty and staff of the College of Education, I welcome you all to today's durbar and colloquium, organized by the College of Education, and which forms part of the year-long celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the University of Ghana on the theme: *Celebrating excellence, shaping futures*. Just a week ago on the 24th of April, the College launched its celebration with fun games and a tree planting exercise. Today, the College has another opportunity to show-case itself as part of the activities of the year-long celebrations.

It is important to state that when the University was established, education was perceived as a catalyst for accelerated national development and therefore the founders found it fit to establish an Institute of Education and Department of Education on this campus. Unfortunately, the Institute of Education and Department of Education were transferred to the University College of Science Education, Cape Coast now University of Cape Coast, by a Presidential fiat. Though the University was not happy with the decision it could do very little about it.

We are happy to state that in 2014, the College of Education came into being along with the three other colleges of the University of Ghana. Today, the College is made up of three Schools and eight departments. One of the strategies of the College is to use proven learning technologies to drive teaching and learning. The College of Education is committed to the removal of barriers that restrict access to education, and to ensuring that students are able to combine their studies with work, family and social responsibilities. We also believe that when technology is utilized efficiently and effectively in teaching and learning, there can be success in university-level studies, through excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.

Madam Chair, in the area of research and scholarship, though a small college, we have identified collaboration with institutions in Africa and other parts of the world as one of the strategies we could pursue to improve research output. In this regard, the College has instituted a College Research Fund to support early career researchers and faculty in their research. We believe that this noble beginning will go a long way towards instilling the culture of research in the College. Today units of the College have collaboration with the University of Sussex and University of Michigan.

The Department of Physical Education and Sport Studies, in collaboration with the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) of the Michigan State University (MSU) has won a research award which aims to promote collaborations with African partners and institutions, develop capacity for conducting international research for MSU researchers and African partners and promote scholarly findings.

Madam Chair, there are conferences, seminars and summits lined up this year. The Department of Communication Studies participated in the World Press Freedom Day held in Accra. In June, the College and the College of Education, Ohio University will organize an international symposium on "Educational Research and Sustainable Development in Africa" at University of Ghana.

The Department of Physical Education and Sport Studies will in September this year, host the 3rd International Conference on Physical Activity and Sports for Health and Development in Africa (IC-PASHDA). The goal of PASHDA is to promote physical activity, sports and health for growth and development in Africa through healthy active living.

The School of Education and Leadership will host the third International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA), in October this year. The goal of the conference is to promote meaningful and equitable progress in education for sustainable development, drawing on critical perspectives from the experience of African countries, and to create a space for education researchers to meet regularly to among others, disseminate research that critiques discourses of education for development in Africa.

The School of Continuing and Distance Education will organize an international conference on Open, Distance and eLearning also in October, this year. The goal of the conference is provide academics and practitioners of Open and Distance Learning across the continent of Africa, the platform to share new knowledge and innovations in the field of Open, Distance and eLearning.

Madam Chair, one of the strengths of the College of Education is the Annual New Year School that has been organized for the past 69 years. It has over the years given the University the opportunity to open its doors to the public and allowed ordinary people to deliberate on matters of national importance. The 70th Annual New Year School and Conference will be held in January 2019.

On teaching, Madam Chair, the philosophy of establishing the College of Education is to improve upon the training and therefore the quality of teachers at all levels of the educational sector. It is in this respect that the School of Education and Leadership is planning to establish a Centre of Excellence for Teaching, Learning and Innovation to drive research at the basic school level and also shape school policies in Ghana. The School has also been instrumental in the training of faculty in the rest of the University in teaching and learning.

Let me speak briefly on the College's strategic plan for the period 2016-2021. The College has made great strides in the implementation of its strategic plan. The College has identified five key priorities to focus on (research, teaching and learning, internal stakeholders, student/faculty/staff recruitment and retention, monitoring and evaluation). Units of the College have drawn up action plans from the five priority areas and budgeted for them for the 2018/2019 budget year.

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, staff and students in the College of Education must be commended for their active participation in various programmes in the College. As a College we are constantly seeking ways to promote the wellbeing of our staff, and will do everything possible to ensure that our students graduate having developed the key skills critical for the 21st century world of work: complex problem solving, creativity, communication, team-work, emotional intelligence, , integrity, commitment, critical thinking, and collaboration.

In shaping the future of education in Ghana, the College plans to establish centers of excellence and chairs in Education and Communication Studies. We will establish an endowment fund to support research and PhD work. We also plan to increase awards for excellence for students, staff and faculty. The College will introduce graduate online courses to afford students flexibility and convenience. The College will continue to actively participate in Ministry of Education's programme of Transforming Teacher Education and Learning (T-TEL).

Ladies and gentlemen, I once again welcome you all to our Durbar and Colloquium, and hope that you will all be able to participate in the activities lined up.

I thank you for your attention.

Prof. Michael Tagoe
Acting Provost