

MASTERCARD  
FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARS COUNCIL  
IN-PERSON MEETING

**Kigali, Rwanda**

**Jan 26th – 29th,**

**2024**



*2024 Scholar Reps Council Meeting*

# DAY 1

## Opening Session

Norette Turimuci, Youth Engagement Lead at Mastercard Foundation Rwanda, extended a warm welcome to all scholars' representatives.

Key takeaways included the principles of "Nothing for us without us" and discussions on how scholar representatives can actively contribute to shaping Africa and ensuring 30 million African youths find dignified jobs by 2030



# Commitments as Scholars Representatives

Scholars from partnering institutions were urged to demonstrate commitment by actively participating in all council activities.





# Scholar Reps Experiences and Challenges

Scholars representatives shared insights, emphasizing collaboration with alumni for community service, prioritizing entrepreneurship projects for self-employment, the importance of pan-African collaboration for community building, and appealing for clear information from program directors before starting studies. The need for listening to scholars was underscored.



# Transformative Leadership by Duaa Mohammed

Duaa facilitated an interaction session on transformative leadership, covering leading oneself and others, emotional intelligence, and leading with influence. Challenges faced by scholars in leadership roles were discussed, emphasizing the necessity to lead oneself first.





# Solid Minds Presentation

Solid Minds, a mental health clinic and a partner of Mastercard Foundation presented their work focusing on stigma reduction, direct counseling, and capacity building in mental health



# Partner institution visits.

During the partner institution visits, all scholar representatives had the opportunity to explore key Mastercard Foundation collaborators in Rwanda, including the University of Rwanda, Africa Leadership University, and the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences.

Personally, I had the privilege of visiting the African Leadership University (ALU). While there, we engaged with scholars, immersed ourselves in their campus environment, and gained insights into their diverse programs of study. It was truly enriching to hear the testimonies of ALU scholars, illustrating how being Mastercard Foundation Scholars has profoundly positively impacted their lives.







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## DAY 2

# Mastercard Foundation Brand by Mimi

Mimi emphasized the importance of scholars appropriately representing the Mastercard Foundation brand. She discouraged the use of abbreviations, suggesting that scholars should write it as “Mastercard Foundation Scholar” instead of using terms like MCF or MCF scholar. Mimi also encouraged scholars to share their stories, recognizing the power of storytelling.



# Introduction to Sub-Committees

New scholar representatives were grouped into these sub-committees, where they will collaborate as teams to contribute to the ongoing initiatives.

## **1. Give back sub-committee.**

The Giveback sub-committee aims at cultivating a culture of service and impact within the Mastercard Foundation Scholars community by spearheading impactful initiatives.

## **2. Scholars Community Building Sub Committee**

The Scholar Community Building Subcommittee aims to strengthen the bond and remove silos among Mastercard Foundation Scholars in their institutions and across the partner network.

## **3. Transitions Sub Committee**

The Transitions sub committee plays a key role in strengthening the seamless transition of Scholars from the classroom to the world of work, entrepreneurship, and higher education.

## **4. Scholars Wellbeing & Health Sub Committee**

The Wellbeing and Health Advisory subcommittee is dedicated to promoting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Mastercard Foundation Scholars.





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# Baobab Team Presentation

The Baobab team provided insights into the Baobab platform and its resources. They encouraged scholars to sign up for the platform.





# Baobab Summit Preparation

Separately, scholars worked in groups to develop themes and topics for the upcoming Baobab Summit scheduled for the end of August 2023. They voted, and the theme from Group Five won.





# Dinner with Foundation Partners and Staff in Rwanda

The conference wrapped up with a nice dinner, where scholars, foundation partners, and staff in Rwanda gathered. Scholars wore traditional outfits, and we picked the best-dressed scholar through a vote.



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