Media Monitoring: Extract of Press News on Higher Education in Africa

1. **Inside Higher Ed**

Low-Income High Schools Shut Out (Global view)

College-going rates among high school graduates declined across the board this fall, but far fewer graduates of low-income and high-poverty high schools, and of high schools with many Black and Hispanic students, enrolled in college during the pandemic, new data show. Immediate college enrollment fell by an unprecedented 6.8 percent this fall, compared with a 1.5 percent year-over-year decline in fall 2019, according to a new special analysis of the High School Benchmarks report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. While a 6.8 percent decline is far better than an earlier estimate of 21.7 percent, it is still 4.5 times larger than the 2019, pre-pandemic rate. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center puts together annual reports on high school graduates' postsecondary enrollment, persistence and completion outcomes. It has also released several analyses of college enrollment amid the pandemic. The latest analysis updates preliminary results posed in December. It also corrects a process error that resulted in an overestimate of the rate of decline in college enrollment counts throughout the December report.

Read more here

2. **Africa University News**

AU hosts first inaugural annual research day (Zimbabwe)

Africa University through its recently established Office of Research and Innovation in collaboration with the AU Clinical Research Center (CRRC) held the Inaugural Research and Innovation Day under the theme, "Development through Innovative Research" on the 26th of March 2021. The online event was attended by leading Africa University academics, graduate students and research partners in other universities and offered a platform for the presentation of prominent research being conducted in the respective colleges also providing an excellent learning experience for novices to gain insight from and access to leading researchers in various fields.

Read more here

3. **The Chronicle of Higher Education**

When the Campus Becomes a Lab to Study COVID (Global view)

A major study will seek to enroll more than 12,000 students at 21 universities in an effort to answer a key question: Does Covid-19 spread after vaccination? The project, announced Friday, could shed valuable insight on the future trajectory of the pandemic as the pace of vaccination increases. It also marks the latest instance of campuses - often with students as subjects - serving as laboratories to understand the coronavirus.

Read more here

4. **University World News**

Higher education is part of the Agenda 2030 ecosystem (Global view)

Universities must convince governments and development agencies that higher education is not a luxury but an essential part of the education ecosystem needed to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, according to three international networks representing more than

2,000 institutions. Their call came during a webinar co-organized by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and the International Association of Universities (IAU) on 23 March, which looked at the pivotal year for higher education and the Agenda 2030 SDGs. Opening the 90-minute debate between university representatives from Africa, the Caribbean and Europe, Joanna Newman, secretary general of the ACU, said most development agencies still believed their focus should be on primary education or up to Year 12, and many people saw higher education as part of an ivory tower.
Read more here

5. **University World News**

New players enter Afro-Arab agriculture partnership (Uganda)
The entry of new partners into the upcoming second Afro-Arab forum for higher education and agriculture is expected to accelerate collaboration between universities and organisations in the two blocs, forge closer ties and help increase opportunities for youth employment. The forum, which brings together the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the Ugandan government and a number of Arab institutions, was held for the first time in 2019. However, in October 2021, new allies will join the partnership, including Sudan's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The aim of the partnership is to foster collaboration and support with the Arab and Gulf countries and universities to promote youth skills development for employability and entrepreneurship in Africa.
Read more here

6. **News 24**

'A learning moment we can't afford to waste': 10 education lessons from 12 months of coronavirus
(South Africa)
March 18, 2020. It's a date few educators will ever forget. On that day, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the closure of South African schools to try and curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was more than 2 months before children set foot in a classroom again, and then only on a part-time basis. Almost exactly a year later, we're still navigating the new reality of teaching and learning. Stacey Brewer, co-founder and CEO of independent private school network SPARK Schools, shares her top 10 lessons learnt over the past 12 months.
Read more here

7. **The Guardian**

Adult education, mental health and democracy (Global view)
Your leader rightly deplores the severe reductions in adult education and part-time learning provision in recent years (The Guardian view on adult education: bring back evening classes, 21 March). This has numerous negative consequences, not only for potential adult learners themselves but also for wider society. One key aspect of such education, which has now virtually disappeared, is critical liberal adult education. In my view, this is a foundational aspect of a vibrant, participative democracy, which requires an informed, socially aware and tolerant citizenry. Adult education is thus a key element in civil society.
Read more here

8. **The Chronicle of Higher Education**

It's Time to Rethink Higher Education (**Global view**)
Pointing out that much of higher education is in a state of crisis is at this point about as revelatory as noting that the U.S. Senate is dysfunctional. More interesting is a consideration of how far colleges and universities, beyond those whose wealth and reputations insulate them from both disruption and self-reflection, are willing to go to mitigate the crisis. How fundamental are the assumptions we are willing to challenge? How many established orthodoxies and traditions are we willing seriously to interrogate? Will this be a slight mid-air course correction or a redesign of the plane? In an industry where the elimination of a small program, the creation of a new interdisciplinary minor, or even the renaming of a department is considered dramatic change, these are important questions.
 Read more here

9. **The Standard**

Universities and colleges hit as Uhuru suspends in-person learning (**Kenya**)
Education sector has once again been hit by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as President Uhuru Kenyatta suspended in-person teaching. Universities and colleges will be the most affected. In his fifth presidential address, Uhuru suspended all physical teaching across all learning institutions. Only candidates and students presently sitting examinations will be exempted. The directive by the president now means that institutions must now revert to online lessons, with those that had not made adequate arrangements caught flat-footed.
Read more here

10. **Inside Higher Ed**

SEC Seizes Opportunities to Expand Academic Programming Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic (**Global view**)
The SEC is not immune to new realities brought upon by COVID-19, what with its sporting events being cancelled last spring and last fall's competitions occurring under strict monitoring. But the SEC managed to turn the interrupted calendar into opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been fraught with challenges. Cancelled conferences, rescheduled seminars and marathon Zoom sessions were, and remain commonplace. The Southeastern Conference (SEC) was not immune to the shocking situation, what with its renowned sporting events being cancelled in spring of 2020 and last fall's competitions occurring under heavy monitoring and testing protocols. But, in the midst of it all, the SEC managed to turn the interrupted calendar and other hurdles caused by COVID-19 into opportunities to expand its already robust portfolio of academic programs and events.
Read more here

11. **EdSurge**

How Extended Reality Tools Can Bring New Life to Higher Education (**Global view**)
For video game players, the 2010s were a decade of extended reality. 2012 saw the development of Oculus, a virtual reality headset company that Facebook later acquired for more than $2 billion. In 2013, Google started selling consumers Glass, a computer built into a pair of glasses. 2016 brought us Pokémon Go, the addictive game that saw players running around their neighborhoods hunting virtual creatures

projected onto the physical landscape through their smartphones. 2020 was predicted to be the first year of the "ambient computing" decade, when these technologies would infiltrate the lives of everyone else, not just those in the gaming world. Just as smartphones have become indispensable to us, extended reality and the Internet of Things were set to become our daily norm.

Read more here

12. **Campus Technology**

11 Ways to Protect Privacy When Using Student Data **(Global view)**

While student data has long been mined to support retention efforts and institutional decision-making, the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new and sometimes troubling uses for data in higher education. For example, campuses might track students' location and social media data to monitor social distancing compliance and help prevent virus outbreaks, according to a new report from NASPA and New America. The pandemic has also "heightened campus interest in tracking student data to better understand how students are faring in online learning environments and the need to intervene with the right resources at the right time," the report explained. More than ever, the researchers argued, there is a vital need for transparency in how colleges collect and use personal data. To gauge students' perceptions of data use in higher education, NASPA and New America conducted a series of student focus groups, discussing campus privacy, contact tracing, targeted outreach and more. Participants represented a variety of institution types, academic levels, instructional formats and racial/ethnic categories. Among the findings:

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