SEPTEMBER 2025 VOL. 08

ADVANCEMENT QUARTERLY

The Official Newsletter of the Institutional Advancement Directorate

InAD Welcomes Prof. Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah as Acting Director

The Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD) of the University of Ghana (UG) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah as its new Acting Director, effective August 1, 2025.

Professor Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah is a Professor at the University of Ghana Business School and the immediate past Head of the Department of Health Services Management. A proud alumnus of the University of Ghana, he holds a PhD in Development Policy and Management from the University of Manchester. With over two decades of experience in academia, research, and public policy consulting, Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah brings to the Institutional Advancement Directorate a distinguished record of scholarship, leadership, and resource mobilisation.

He has conducted high-impact research on health policy, financing, inequality, and governance, leading over 20 multi-partner research assignments funded by prestigious agencies including WHO, World Bank, UNICEF, PharmAccess, DFID-FCDO, DANIDA, UNFPA, IFAD, CDD-Ghana, and WAHO. His academic portfolio features several peer-reviewed journal articles, multiple technical reports, book chapters, and policy briefs, many of which have influenced reforms in health financing and public sector accountability in Ghana and beyond.

Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah has demonstrated exceptional fundraising and grant acquisition capabilities, having mobilised resources for projects totalling several million dollars. His experience working with global institutions, alongside his participation in executive training programs at MIT Sloan, Yale School of Management, and HaaS School of Business, UC Berkeley, has equipped him with the strategic insight and expertise required to drive the University's external engagement.

As Acting Director of Institutional Advancement, Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah is well-positioned to forge transformative partnerships, mobilise alumni as a strategic resource, and generate funding for critical University initiatives. His broad experience in governance reform, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement will be instrumental in enhancing the visibility and global competitiveness of the University of Ghana. He is visionary and committed to promoting inclusive development through academic excellence, strategic partnerships, and institutional resilience.

"It is with deep honour and a strong sense of responsibility that I assume the role of Acting Director for the Institutional Advancement Directorate," said Prof. Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah. "My vision is for InAD to become the University's engine for institutional visibility, agility, and global engagement."

To realise this vision, Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah announced the operationalisation of six specialised teams: Product Development & Financing, Project Implementation, Alumni Development, Institutional Development, Marketing and Communications, supported by cross-cutting administrative and reporting structures. These teams will collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to deliver meaningful value and measurable impact.

"Under my leadership, the Institutional Advancement Directorate will contribute significantly to the University's vision of achieving global impact through strategic partnerships, transformative student and alumni engagement, and innovative advancement initiatives that mobilise resources, amplify impact, and elevate institutional visibility," he added as his vision statement.

Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah concluded with a call to action:

"As we begin this journey, I invite all members of the university community, our alumni, friends, partners, and donors, to walk with us. Together, we can build an institution that is not only globally respected but also locally relevant."

The Institutional Advancement Directorate warmly welcomes Prof. Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah to this pivotal role and looks forward to building on its legacy and impact under his visionary leadership.

InAD Hosts Delegation from University of Cologne for Strategic Innovation Exchange

The Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD), in collaboration with the International Programmes Office (IPO), successfully hosted a delegation from the Gateway Excellence Start-Up Centre (Gateway GSE) of the University of Cologne, Germany, for a two-day Knowledge Sharing Experience Visit on 8th and 9th September 2025. The visit marked a significant milestone in InAD's ongoing efforts to strengthen global partnerships and promote innovation-led engagements across the University of Ghana.

The initiative stemmed from a strategic collaboration initiated in 2023 between InAD and the North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) Office in Ghana, aimed at fostering cross-cultural and institutional learning. The visit provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on entrepreneurship, venture development, and best practices in innovation management.

The delegation from the University of Cologne, led by Dr Katja Yang, Director, International Affairs Office, was welcomed by the Dean of the International Programmes Office (IPO), Professor Jemima Anderson, and formally received by Professor Abekah-Nkrumah, Acting Director of InAD, emphasising the importance of international collaboration in advancing the University's innovation ecosystem and strategic priorities.

During the two-day visit, the delegation toured several key innovation hubs across campus, including:

- **The Postharvest Innovation Hub at the School of Agriculture**, where the delegation interacted with the founder and entrepreneurs who shared the Hub's journey and impact on agribusiness. The visit included a guided tour of locally developed postharvest technologies led by the Hub Manager.

- **The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI)**, an Africa Centre of Excellence for Agriculture Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- **The University of Ghana Business School Innovation and Incubation Hub**, which supports student-led startups and interdisciplinary problem-solving.
- **The designated site for the Digital Youth Village,** a visionary initiative focused on digital empowerment and youth-led innovation.

The visit concluded with a final meeting hosted by Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah, providing a reflective moment to consolidate insights and explore future collaborative ventures.

InAD extends its appreciation to the delegation from the University of Cologne led by Dr. Katja Yang (Director, International Affairs Office), Dr. Valerie Wolf (Deputy Executive Director, Gateway Exzellenz Start-up Center), Simon Graw (Start-Up Coach, Gateway Exzellenz Start-up Center), Dr. Georg Verweyen (Coordinator, Ghana-NRW University Alliance), and the entire delegation for the active participation and valuable contributions. Special thanks go to Dr. Beatrice Asenso Barnieh, Head of Ghana, Ghana-NRW University Alliance, for her pivotal role and to the dedicated teams at InAD, IPO, and the various innovation hubs for their coordination and support.

This visit reflects InAD's commitment to the University of Ghana's strategic focus on Engagements and Partnerships, as well as Sustainable Resource Mobilisation and Stewardship, as it continues to build bridges for global innovation and transformative education.

WEST
ICA CENTRE FOR
CROP
ROVEMENT

WEST AFRICA CENTRE FOR
CROP IMPROVEMENT

POSTHARVEST INNOVATION HUB

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL

UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN
UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

UG's Institutional Advancement Directorate Engages OmniBSIC Bank on Strategic Partnership and Investment Opportunities

As part of ongoing efforts to deepen strategic collaborations aligned with the University of Ghana's Strategic Plan (2024–2029), the Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD) hosted a meeting with OmniBSIC Bank Ghana on 2nd September 2025.

Held at the University of Ghana, the meeting convened leadership from both institutions to explore mutually beneficial partnerships that support UG's vision of becoming a world-class, research-intensive university. Discussions centred on investment opportunities, support for flagship initiatives, and long-term collaborations aimed at driving innovation, infrastructure development, and student success.

Speaking at the meeting, Acting Director of InAD, Prof. Abekah-Nkrumah, underscored the critical role of private sector partnerships in advancing the University's strategic goals. "The University of Ghana is committed to building sustainable relationships that enhance our academic mission, research impact, and community engagement. We see OmniBSIC as a valuable partner in this journey," he stated.

The OmniBSIC Bank delegation, led by Chidi Brayie-Yankey, Group Head, Corporate and Support Services, expressed strong interest in supporting initiatives that promote education, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion. She reaffirmed the bank's commitment to corporate social responsibility and its readiness to co-create impactful solutions with the University.

Also present from OmniBSIC Bank were Charles Nkansah, Head, Product Development; Harry Oppong, Head, Partnerships Desk; and Nana Esiaba Hagan, Head, Asian Desk.

This engagement forms part of InAD's broader strategy to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to deliver meaningful value and measurable impact. The Directorate will continue to engage OmniBSIC Bank and other partners in the coming months to translate these discussions into actionable projects that benefit the University community and beyond.

UGAANA Leads the Charge for Student Support at 3rd Biennial Reunion

The University of Ghana Alumni Association, North America (UGAANA) reaffirmed its commitment to student success and institutional advancement at its 3rd Biennial Reunion, held from September 19–21, 2025, in Maryland, USA.

The event brought together alumni from across the United States and Canada to reconnect, strengthen professional networks, and explore strategic ways to support the University's growth. A major highlight was the fundraising dinner dance, where several members pledged $4,000 each over four years to support brilliant but needy students, building on UGAANA's existing scholarship programme administered through the Students' Financial Aid Office.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, led the University of Ghana delegation and delivered a keynote presentation on the state of the University. She shared progress under the 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, emphasising the importance of alumni support in alleviating financial challenges faced by students. She commended UGAANA for its sustained commitment to student welfare and the University's advancement.

Joining the Vice-Chancellor from InAD were Professor Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah, Ag. Director of Institutional Advancement, and Madam Adwoa Abrokwa, Head of Alumni Development, whose participation underscored InAD's strategic focus on cultivating global alumni partnerships and mobilising resources to support the University's mission.

The reunion also featured a panel discussion on the theme "Cultivating Integrity: Ethical Education for Transformational Leadership", the adoption of a revised constitution, and updates on alumni engagement efforts. The event concluded with a lively family picnic at Urbana District Park in Frederick, Maryland, celebrating community, shared purpose, and the enduring bond between alumni and their alma mater.

The Institutional Advancement Directorate remains committed to transforming alumni into strategic partners, mobilising their networks, expertise, and goodwill to elevate UG's visibility, drive resource mobilisation, and champion student success.

UGAAL Launches Strategic Plan to Strengthen Alumni Engagement and Regional Partnerships (2025–2030)

The University of Ghana Alumni Association of Liberia (UGAAL) has officially launched its Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), setting a bold agenda for institutional growth, academic collaboration, and alumni empowerment across Liberia and Ghana.

The launch ceremony, held at the RLJ Kendeja Resort in Monrovia, brought together over 150 alumni, academic leaders, and dignitaries. The event was chaired by Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq., and featured a keynote address by Prof. Edison D. Pajibo, Vice President for Administration at Margibi University, Liberia. His address centred on the theme: "Tragedy and Triumph of History: From Bloody Wars to Knowledge Wars in Building Strong Nations and Institutions."

Dr. Agnes Taylor, Vice President for Administration at the University of Liberia, represented the university's president. Also in attendance were faculty from the University of Liberia, representatives from the Ghana Embassy in Liberia, the Ghana Professionals Association in Liberia, representatives from neighbouring universities in Liberia, and members of the broader alumni community.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Professor Kwasi Dartey-Baah, former Director, Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD), Madam Adwoa Owusu Abrokwa, Head of Alumni Relations, emphasised the significance of the occasion: "This event marks a bold step forward in UGAAL's journey to deepen alumni engagement, foster academic collaboration, and drive social impact across Liberia and Ghana."

UGAAL President Mr. Daniel Blamoh Nah reflected on the association's journey since its inauguration on June 3, 2023, and highlighted the progress made, including the development and official endorsement of the strategic plan by the University of Ghana.

Introducing the Five Strategic Goals (2025–2030)

The strategic plan is anchored in UGAAL's mission to unite alumni as a transformative force and is guided by the core values of integrity, loyalty, respect, and commitment. The five strategic goals launched are:

1. Strengthening Institutional Foundations
2. Fostering Internal Cohesion
3. Cultivating Collaborative Partnerships
4. Launching Impactful Initiatives
5. Enhancing Fundraising and Financial Sustainability

Mr. Nah praised the leadership of Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, the first female Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, for her consistent support and personal visits to Liberia. He noted that her commitment places her among Liberia's celebrated female leaders. He also highlighted the University of Ghana's institutional capacity and its potential to contribute meaningfully to Liberia's academic development.

Among the distinguished guests were Maud Ashong Elliot, President of the Internet Society – Ghana; Bahijah Danladi Sheibanee, Vice President of the University of Ghana Alumni Association of North America (UGAANA); and Akorfa Ama Akoto, Marketing and Communications Lead at InAD, each representing key pillars of the global alumni network and institutional advancement.

The launch of the UGAAL Strategic Plan marks a new era of alumni-led academic partnership and regional collaboration.

Celebrating 20 Years of Student Financial Aid at the University of Ghana and in Ghana

The University of Ghana Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO) marked its 20th anniversary with a two-day national conference under the theme: “Promoting Equity, Expanding Access and Enhancing Aid Administration in Ghana’s Tertiary Education.”

At the opening ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo reiterated UG’s commitment to equitable education, highlighting SFAO’s impact in supporting thousands of students, many of whom have risen to become valedictorians and globally recognised achievers.

Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, Minister for Education and Special Guest of Honour, announced the establishment of the Mayaan Kallogi Scholarship in honour of his late mother, pledging ten years of support for brilliant but needy students.

Delivering the keynote, Emeritus Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, former Vice-Chancellor, called for inclusive, data-driven financial aid models that extend beyond tuition to encompass access to technology and mental health support.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah, former Director of the Institutional Advancement Directorate, underscored the Directorate’s role in cultivating donor relationships, engaging alumni, and securing sustainable funding to support financially disadvantaged students.

He stated, “As a Directorate, we are pleased to celebrate this historic milestone with SFAO, as we witness how our fundraising efforts continue to expand opportunities, unlock potential, and sustain hope for students.”

Professor Samuel Kwasi Dartey-Baah Ends Transformative Four-Year Tenure as Director of Institutional Advancement at University of Ghana

Professor Samuel Kwasi Dartey-Baah steps down as Director of the Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD) at the University of Ghana, leaving a legacy defined by strategic foresight, transformative leadership, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

From his appointment as Acting Director in 2021 to his full tenure from 2022 to 2025, Prof. Dartey-Baah led InAD through a period of dynamic growth. One of his earliest and most symbolic achievements was overseeing the transition of the unit from the Office of Institutional Advancement to the Institutional Advancement Directorate. This move reflected its growing strategic importance within the University's governance structure.

He developed a three-year strategic blueprint focused on resource mobilisation, operational excellence, visibility, and strategic collaborations, aligning with UG's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan. His leadership was evident at the 2025 Deans and Directors in Leadership and Advancement Conference, where he challenged university leaders to respond to shifting international relations and aid dynamics with innovation and resilience.

Delivering the World Bank ACE Institutional Impact Project

Prof. Dartey-Baah's most transformative achievement was leading the implementation of the World Bank ACE Institutional Impact Project (DLI7). Under his stewardship, UG achieved all ten milestones six months ahead of schedule, securing over USD 1 million ($1,000,000) in funding. These milestones included:

- Developing an Institutional Regional Strategy for the University of Ghana
- Undergoing the first phase of International Institutional Accreditation
- Participating in PASET Benchmarking initiatives to improve UG's data systems maturity level
- Establishing five (5) new alumni groups across the West-African subregion.
- Leading key infrastructure upgrades, including enhanced internet connectivity across the Legon and Korle Bu campuses, upgraded features for the University's learning management system (SAKAI), and the establishment of smart classrooms on the Korle Bu Campus to advance virtual learning.

Strengthened Leadership Development and Institutional Advancement

Under his leadership, InAD launched impactful programmes that strengthened leadership capacity and institutional advancement. These included the annual Deans and Directors in Leadership and Advancement Conference, held three times to convene university leaders for professional development; unit-specific customer relations training for administrative staff, notably at the College of Education; and industry engagement fora such as sessions on emotional intelligence and organisational resilience.

He also introduced the UG Advance Conference, a flagship convening for industry alumni that fostered strategic dialogue between academia and the private sector.

Contributions to InAD's Strategic Sub-Units
Alumni Relations: Strengthening UG's Ties with its Alumni

Under his leadership, InAD significantly expanded UG's global alumni footprint by launching five new alumni associations in Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, and Francophone Africa, resulting in strategic alumni associations in eight countries. He championed alumni-led initiatives and supported the development of the maiden UG Alumni Newsletter, UG Connect.

His support for the UGAAL Strategic Plan (2025–2030) in Liberia reflected his belief in alumni as strategic partners of transformation. He championed the maiden UG Advance Conference, which is designed to be an annual convening of alumni in industry.

Projects: Implementing Donor-funded and UG-developmental Projects

Prof. Dartey-Baah has led the successful execution of high-impact, donor-funded and University-led projects aligned with the UG's strategic priorities. Notably, he oversaw the complete delivery of all ten milestones of the World Bank ACE Institutional Impact Project (DLI7), securing over USD 1 million to refurbish lecture rooms with modern pedagogical technology, establish smart classrooms, expand broadband infrastructure, and operationalise the Logistics and Academic Quality Directorates.

He has led engagements with Zenith Bank for the construction of an ultra-modern ICT Centre and engaged with MTN and GNPC to fully develop proposed collaborative projects that will significantly advance the University's strategic priorities.

Major Donor Fundraising: Fundraising to Achieve Institutional Developmental Goals

As Director, Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah led strategic donor engagement to mobilise resources for priority development projects at the University of Ghana. Under the Vice-Chancellor's Digitalisation Initiative, he advanced discussions with

OmniBSIC Bank, securing its commitment to construct one of the ten planned hotspot comfort zones, is now at an advanced stage, with land allocated. He also secured a major donor pledge to build a four-storey ultra-modern facility for the Medical School Clinic at Korle Bu, Accra, incorporating additional classrooms to support the classroom modernisation initiative. This construction project is currently ongoing and is nearing completion.

His efforts attracted significant financial and in-kind contributions, including a cash donation from CalBank for the classroom modernisation initiatives and laptop donations from organisations such as Stanbic Investment Management Services for the One Student One Laptop initiative.

Beyond these flagship projects, he facilitated funding support for key University units, including the Academic Affairs Directorate and the Human Resource and Organisational Development Directorate, to implement strategic programmes, while initiating ongoing discussions with other partners to advance additional institutional priorities.

Marketing and Communications: Enhancing InAD's Visibility Within and Outside UG

As Director of InAD, Professor Dartey-Baah spearheaded the development of the University of Ghana's first comprehensive marketing and communications strategy, approved by both University Management and the Academic Board. This strategy now drives the University's branding, stakeholder engagement, and postgraduate recruitment initiatives.

Under his leadership, the Directorate launched a dedicated website and established a robust suite of communication channels, including the Advancement Quarterly newsletter, the biannual alumni newsletter UG Connect, and the annual Institutional Advancement Report, ensuring stakeholders remain informed and engaged with the University's advancement activities.

Advancing Sustainable Resource Mobilisation through InAD

In alignment with the University's fifth strategic priority, sustainable resource mobilisation, Prof. Dartey-Baah led InAD to successfully win the bid to become the sole sales point for University of Ghana graduation gowns and branded souvenirs. This initiative not only enhanced the visibility of UG's brand but also created a reliable revenue stream to support the implementation of the University's key strategic priorities. Through this effort, graduating students now contribute directly to the achievement of UG's strategic objectives while celebrating their academic achievements.

Recognising the need for a structured and coordinated approach to advancement, Prof. Dartey-Baah championed the development of the University's Fundraiser Compensation Policy, a landmark initiative designed to professionalise and incentivise fundraising across the institution.

After an impactful four-year tenure, Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah officially handed over as Director of Institutional Advancement on July 31, 2025. He now takes on a new leadership role as Vice-Chancellor of Central University, effective September 01, 2025.

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