

# Astria Learning and Makerere University Sign Landmark MoU to Build Africa's AI-Powered Future of Research and Education

KAMPALA, UGANDA, October 30, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A wave of transformation is rising across Africa's higher education landscape.

At the ARUA 2025 Biennial International Conference, [Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe](#) and [Dr. Peter Njiru](#) signed a landmark [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) to launch the AI-powered research and education alliance, a transformative alliance that will expand postgraduate access, digitize research collaboration, and empower African universities to lead in artificial intelligence-driven innovation.

The partnership represents a turning point in how Africa learns, researches, and builds knowledge for the future.



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The signing took place during the ARUA 2025 Biennial International Conference, held under the theme "Reimagining Africa's Knowledge Future: The Role of Research and Innovation."

The event brought together visionary leaders, policymakers, and innovators from across the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), united by a shared commitment to reimagining Africa's knowledge future. The conference's Chief Guest was H.E. Prof. [Barnabas Nawangwe](#), Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University, whose presence underscored the government's dedication to advancing research and innovation across the continent. H.E. [Peter Njiru](#), Chief Executive Officer of Astria Learning, was also in attendance, along with numerous distinguished delegates from across Africa.

The landmark MoU was signed by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University, and Dr. Peter Njiru, Chief Executive Officer of Astria Learning, marking a defining moment in Africa's pursuit of AI-powered education and research excellence.

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Every day, 80,000 young Africans turn 18, enough to fill a football stadium. Yet, only 9% access higher education, and fewer than 1% pursue postgraduate studies. Traditional infrastructure cannot keep pace.

This partnership is a response to that reality, and an invitation to reimagine what's possible.

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- Launch a continental digital platform for postgraduate learning and research collaboration.
- Expand access to AI-powered, borderless education across Africa.
- Digitize every stage of the academic lifecycle, from admissions to thesis defense.
- Support the African Union's vision of producing 100,000 new PhDs by 2035, aligned with Agenda 2063.

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“Education is Africa's inheritance, the most powerful bridge between potential and prosperity,” said □□. □□□ □□□□□, □□ □ □□□□□ □□□□□□□. “When we combine intelligence with intention, we ignite transformation. Together with Makerere University, we are building systems that don't just educate, they empower. The AI [eCampus](#) will ensure that the next generation of African thinkers, researchers, and leaders are not waiting for opportunity; they are creating it.”

“Makerere University is making strategic efforts to expand its footprint through distance learning. This allows us to offer quality graduate training to scholars across the globe that desire quality education but might not be able to physically access our campus. The partnership with Astria Learning will facilitate this endeavor and by extension, advance our research-led agenda too by enabling us to recruit graduate trainees from all over the world,” said □□□□. □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□, □□□□-□□□□□□□□□ □ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□.

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This collaboration is more than a digital transformation. It's a continental movement toward □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□, where Africa's researchers shape the innovations, policies, and discoveries that define its future.

“Africa's digital future will be built by its universities,” Dr. Bordes added. “The wave of youth, ambition, and innovation cannot be held back. It must be channeled into opportunity — and that's what we're doing together.”

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Astria Learning is a global education technology company partnering with higher education institutions in over 16 countries.

Its suite of innovations includes AI-powered learning platforms, digital libraries, student tablets, and full-service Online Program Management solutions.

Astria's mission is to democratize education by making high-quality, flexible, and globally competitive learning accessible through technology.

□ [www.astrialearning.com](http://www.astrialearning.com)

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