

# 2017 GLOBAL AFRICAN STUDENTS ESSAY COMPETITION REVERSING BRAIN DRAIN TO BRAIN GAIN

## A Call for Participation

April 29, 2017

Contest: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Award Gala: 6-11pm

Chicago State University, 9501 S. King Drive, New Academic Library, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60628

### DESCRIPTION:

The Global Institute of Sustainable Development at Chicago State University, in collaboration with the Global Students Association, Young African Students Ambassador, and the Midwest African Students Association invites participation in 2017 Global African Students Essay Competition. In line with African Union's, AU, Agenda 2063 of 2015, stipulating a "rededication of an enduring Pan African vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena," is this call for participation. With a focus on "REVERSING BRAIN DRAIN TO BRAIN GAIN," this competition aims to provide a forum for the creation and dissemination of knowledge by brilliant minds with the hope of nurturing and engaging Global African skills for transformative planning and sustainable development of Africa.

### CATEGORIES:

The competition is open to African students in U.S. colleges and universities, with primary focus in the Midwest. There are two categories of award:

- **Graduate Students Award** – Submission from a full-time or part-time graduate student currently enrolled in a U.S. College or University.
- **Undergraduate Students Award** - A full-time or part-time undergraduate student currently enrolled in a U.S. College or University.

### ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRED CRITERIA:

All eligible submissions must be original work of the individual who submits it and may not have been submitted for publication or published in any format before, whether, through a journal, newsletter, magazine, social media or other mechanism for public distribution. Submission constitutes permission to publish. It must be written as an essay paper and not just a Question and Answer work. Feel free to include references.

Papers submitted for consideration must address the following areas:

1. **Introductory Background and General Issues**

- a. What do you understand by brain drain? Site examples, if any.
- b. What are the impediments that hinder Global Africans, African Diaspora or Continental Africans who came to study in the US but never returned home to use their skills for African development?

2. **Intervention** - In your own opinion, what should be done to reverse this direction of brain drain of Africans into brain gain for African transformative planning and sustainable development?

3. **Individual Contributions**
  - a. What have you done so far that would make Africans proud of you?
  - b. And how would you as an individual utilize the skills you have acquired here in the U.S. for a transformative sustainable development of Global African communities (i.e. both in the Diaspora and in the continent)?

### AWARDS:

Depending on donor's specifications, First, Second and Third place finishers in each category will receive cash and/or gift awards in descending value respectively. Details are yet to be determined by donors. All participants with eligible essays will have the opportunity to publish their work on the Global Institute's website and possibly on a compiled volume. The Global Institute reserves the right to forfeit awards and publication privileges if no submissions are of high and satisfactorily standards. There will be a panel discuss of top selected essays and audience participation. Additionally, successful candidates will read their essays to a larger more varied audience during the gala celebration of African brain trust when they will be honor with awards.



### EVALUATION CRITERIA

While a committee of International Studies and African Educators will review all entries and possibly select top papers for each category. In a fun-filled approach, winners will be determined and notified by peer evaluation, open voting and selection during the panel discussion. Essays will be prior- and peer-evaluated based on their creativity; relevance to the topic of reversing or turning brain drain into brain gain; answering and expounding on the questions that were only provided as guide; resourcefulness; passionate and enthusiastic display of genuine opportunity to make a difference; clarity of purpose and argument; logical coherence and understanding of urgency of need; quality of the presentation; as well as evidence to support claims.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Essays must be submitted as MSWord attachment (no PDFs) in English, with 1" margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double-spaced numbered pages.

Include a cover page with: author's name, email, telephone number, mailing address, US college/university, major, the title of the article, and graduate or undergraduate entry category.

Add about 150-word (or less) abstract

Essay may include charts, graphs, or other pertinent illustrations and should be, at least, 1,500 words in length, (excluding endnotes and bibliography).

Complete the bibliography & "endnotes" (preferred instead of footnotes) according to the Chicago Manual of Style, 16<sup>th</sup> edition or any chosen writing style.

Attach your biographical sketch with your head shot. Your biography should include:

- Your Country of Birth/Nationality
- Your parents' Country of Birth/Nationality
- Outstanding talents
- Educational and career achievements
- Future goals
- Community service, etc.

Submission deadline is April 27, 2017, for this contest period. However, submission is received on a continuous basis for the next season.



## EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:

[globalinstitute@csu.edu](mailto:globalinstitute@csu.edu)

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<http://www.csu.edu/internationalstudies/globalinstitute/events.htm>

Sponsorship Opportunity Available!