Title of Article: Internationalization and Regionalization of Higher Education in Africa: A Blended Approach.

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Abstract: Most developing nations of the world are battling with the challenge of access and quality of Higher Education. The yearly ranking of World Class Universities (WCUs) and the demand of globalization have made it imperative for the developing nations to address the quality of education for improved relevance and nation building. In this paper, we present the existing model of collaboration between Covenant University, a private University in Nigeria, and some high-ranking universities in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. We have been able to build a virile process of collaborations through students exchange programmes, and the need for our students to undertake joint degree programmes with partners abroad. The byproducts of these collaborations include awards of Fulbright and Postdoctoral fellowships, joint postgraduate research supervision and grant applications resulting in high impact publications. With regionalization, we have engaged in collaborations with some institutions in Africa in a bid to enhancing standards and curriculum development, encouraging quality research and publications in African journals, comparable to what is obtainable in highly developed countries, including improving our world webometrics and world university rankings. As a private higher institution, we have focused on improving educational standard through quality teaching and research, regular academic calendars and modern facilities, with the goal of addressing the issue of half backed graduates not suitable for employment purposes. The expectation is that, the lessons learnt from the WCUs can be shared within the region through a combined Internationalization and Regionalization model to improve the quality of education.

Keywords: Internalization, Regionalization, Higher Education, World Class Universities, Quality and Access