KUSAT FORUM
We TECH-IT
KENYA-USA TECH FORUM

KUSAT DIAC 2026

DIASPORA INNOVATION & AI CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

Connecting Global Talent to Driving Innovation, Shape the Future of AI and Strengthening Diaspora Engagement

June 24–25, 2026
Marymount University, Washington D.C.

DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026 | AI, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Time	**8:00 – 9:00**
Format	REGISTRATION
Session Title	Delegate Registration & Networking Breakfast
Moderator	Facilitator, Dr. Ouma Otieno

Time	**9:00 – 9:15**
Format	CEREMONY
Session Title	Official Welcome — Setting the Stage
Speaker(s)	Fr. Gabriel (Prayer and Welcome)
Moderator	(emcee, Liz Njuguna)
Theme Pillar	Cross-cutting

Time	**9:15 – 10:00**
Format	KEYNOTE
Session Title	Africa in the Age of AI: Why Sovereignty Starts Here
Speaker(s)	Amb. David Kerich
Moderator	(emcee, Dr. Ouma Mak'Ouma)
Theme Pillar	AI & Emerging Technologies

Time	**10:00 – 10:50**
Format	DEBATE
Session Title	Who Controls Africa's AI Future?
Speaker(s)	• Humphrey Muchuma • John Paul Okwiri • Karani Namunyu technologies • Deborah Kariuki
Moderator	Dr. Jean-Leah Njoroge
Theme Pillar	AI & Emerging Technologies

Time	**10:50 – 11:05**
Format	BREAK
Session Title	Morning Break & Exhibition

Time	**11:05 – 11:45**
Format	FIRESIDE
Session Title	We Tried. We Failed. We Built Again.
Speaker(s)	Isaac Rashid Agina Joanne Marime
Moderator	Brian George
Theme Pillar	Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time	**11:45 – 12:30**
Format	KEYNOTE
Session Title	Digital Transformation in Africa
Speaker(s)	Dana L. Banks Celina Lee
Moderator	(Facilitator, Gerald Moore)
Theme Pillar	AI & Emerging Technologies

Time	**12:30 – 1:30**
Format	BREAK
Session Title	Lunch Break & Sponsor Exhibition

Time	**1:30 – 2:15**
Format	PANEL
Session Title	Can AI Save African Healthcare — or Break It?
Speaker(s)	Dr. Pauline Otieno Dr. Vane Gichana Dr. John Gachogo
Moderator	Dr. James Muruthi
Theme Pillar	AI & Emerging Technologies

Time	**2:15 – 3:00**
Format	PANEL

Session Title	The AI Infrastructure Imperative: Data Centers, Power, Cooling & Networks in Africa
Speaker(s)	Dr. Ichatha Kamanu Eng. James Rege Dr. Lawrence Nderu
Moderator	Dr. Jean-Leah Njoroge
Theme Pillar	AI Infrastructure

Time	**3:00 – 3:15**
Format	BREAK
Session Title	Afternoon Networking Break

Time	**3:15 – 4:00**
Format	LIGHTNING
Session Title	Four Big Ideas in 45 Minutes
Speaker(s)	Titus (Carerra) Kariuki Dr. Gordon Ogutu Prof. Jonathan K. Ngugi John Paul Okwiri
Moderator	Emmanuel Kieti
Theme Pillar	Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time	**4:00 – 4:45**
Format	WORKSHOP
Session Title	Build an AI Startup in 45 Minutes — Live Design Sprint

Speaker(s)	Humphrey Muchuma Owen Sakawa
Moderator	(Facilitator, Jude Kikuyu)
Theme Pillar	Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time	**4:45 – 5:25**
Format	FIRESIDE
Session Title	VC Fireside: Africa's Universities as the AI Innovation Engine
Speaker(s)	Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi Prof. Charles O. Ochola
Moderator	Brian George
Theme Pillar	STEM Talent & Future of Work

Time	**5:25 – 5:35**
Format	CEREMONY
Session Title	Day 1 Wrap-Up & Preview of Day 2
Speaker(s)	Brian Georgei (Emcee)
Theme Pillar	Cross-cutting

Time	**5:35 – 6:30**
Format	NETWORKING
Session Title	Evening Networking Reception

DAY 2 — THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 | Talent, Diaspora & Opportunity

Time	**8:30 – 9:00**
Format	REGISTRATION
Session Title	Day 2 Check-In & Morning Networking

Time	**9:00 – 9:10**
Format	CEREMONY
Session Title	Day 2 Welcome & Day 1 Highlights Reel
Speaker(s)	Mercy Maseki (Emcee)

Time	**9:10 – 9:50**
Format	KEYNOTE
Session Title	Diaspora in Power: What Representation Really Means
Speaker(s)	Rep. Huldah N. Hiltsley
Moderator	(Facilitator, Liz Njuguna)

Time	**9:50 – 10:40**
Format	DEBATE
Session Title	DIASPORA DEBATE: Are We Helping or Hurting?
Speaker(s)	Prof. Jonathan K. Ngugi Dr. Fidelis Ndombera

	Owen Sakawa Deborah Kariuki
Moderator	Aysher Wairimu
Theme Pillar	Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time	**10:40 – 10:55**
Format	BREAK
Session Title	Morning Break & Exhibition

Time	**10:55 – 11:40**
Format	PANEL
Session Title	Breaking Into AI When You Didn't Study Computer Science
Speaker(s)	Prof. Enan Muhire Nyesheja Dr. Jane Waithera Dr. Vane Gichana
Moderator	Dr. James Muruthi
Theme Pillar	STEM Talent & Future of Work

Time	**11:40 – 12:20**
Format	FIRESIDE
Session Title	Diaspora Investment: What Actually Works
Speaker(s)	Dr. Gordon Ogutu Dr. Robert Chiuri Hon. Martin Moshisho Martine

Moderator	Brian George
Theme Pillar	Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time	**11:20 – 1:20**
Format	BREAK
Session Title	Lunch Break & Sponsor Showcase

Time	**1:20 – 1:30**
Format	SPOTLIGHT
Session Title	Sponsor Spotlight: Diaspora Property & Investment Opportunities
Speaker(s)	Nawaz Juneja
Moderator	(Facilitator, Mary Okolla)
Theme Pillar	Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time	**1:30 – 3:00**
Format	SHOWCASE
Session Title	DIAC Innovation Showcase: Startup & Project Pitches "Participating startups & project teams"
Speaker(s)	Morris Mbetsa Judges: Joan Mbesya & Dr. Verrah Otiende
Moderator	(Facilitator, Mercy Maseki)
Theme Pillar	Innovation Ecosystems & Entrepreneurship

Time	**3:00 – 3:45**
Format	LAB
Session Title	Partnership Lab: Structured Deal-Making & Collaboration
Speaker(s)	Julius Kemei Terry Irungu Karimi Igeria Danish Rayola
Moderator	Edwin Makini
Theme Pillar	Diaspora Engagement & Global Collaboration

Time	**3:45 – 4:20**
Format	PANEL
Session Title	Closing Roundtable: One Commitment Each — Building the Kenya-USA Tech Bridge
Speaker(s)	Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi Prof. Charles O. Ochola Dr. Lawrence Nderu
Moderator	Brian George
Theme Pillar	Cross-cutting

Time	**4:20 – 4:40**
Format	CALL TO ACTION
Session Title	Conference Recommendations
Speaker(s)	Dr. Verrah Otiende
Moderator	Facilitator, Dr. Verrah Otiende
Theme Pillar	Cross-cutting

Time	**4:40 – 5:30**
Format	CEREMONY
Session Title	Awards, Acknowledgements & Official Conference Close
Speaker(s)	Rep. Huldah N. Hiltsley Amb. David Kerich Hon. Martin Moshisho
Moderator	Facilitator, Dr. Ouma Mak'Ouma
Theme Pillar	Cross-cutting

Time	**5:30 – 6:30**
Format	NETWORKING
Session Title	Closing Networking Reception

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

AMB. DAVID KERICH
Embassy of Kenya, Washington DC

CELINA LEE
Co-founder and the CEO of Zindi

PROF MWENDA NTARANGWI
Vice Chancellor, USIU-Africa

PROF. CHARLES O. OCHOLA
Vice Chancellor

DR. VANE GICHANA
Professor University of St. Thomas

HULDAH N. HILTSLEY, MBA, CIPP/E, CHPSE
Minnesota House of Representative

ENG. JAMES REGE
Former MP and ICT PS

DR. PAULINE OTIENO-KIBISU
Healthcare provider

GORDON OGUTU, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, Dublin City University

DR. LAWRENCE NDERU
Senior Lecturer, and Researcher in AI/ML | Founder JHUB Africa

FIDELIS NDOMBERA BSC.
Study Lead QC Scientist III at Labcorp

JEAN-LEAH NJOROGE, PhD
Sr. IP Licensing Manager

PROF.ENAN MUHIRE NYESHEJA
UNILAK University

HON. MARTIN MOSHISHO MARTINE
Deputy Governor,Kajiado County

PROF. JONATHAN K. NGUGI
Associate professor, University of Lay Adventists of Kigali

DR. JOHN GACHAGO
VP Digital Innovation, Parrish Medical Center.

ENG. JAMES REGE
Former MP and ICT PS

DR. ROBERT CHIURI
President & CEO, One Voice Consortium and Food Security

DR. JANE WAITHERA
HR Leader
IT Firm in Northern Virginia

JOHN PAUL OKWIRI
CEO, Konza Technopolis

DEBORAH KARIUKI
Assistant Teaching Professor
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

NAWAZ JUNEJA
Senior Sales Partner
Unity Homes

ISAAC RASHID AGINA
Social Entrepreneur and Experienced Educator

HUMPHREY MUCHUMA
Founder & Group CEO, INUA AI Group

TITUS (CARERRA) KARIUKI
AI Use Case Strategist

BRIAN GEORGE
NTV Kenya News Anchor & Global Moderator

DANISH RAYOLA
AI Governance, Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Law Expert

KARANI NAMUNYU,MBA
Sr. Advisor Global market operations, Dell Technologies

OWEN SAKAWA
Founder, CEO & Global AI Safety & Governance Leader

MORRIS MBETSA
Founder Numeral IOT USA

DANA L. BANKS
Nonresident Senior Fellow
Atlantic Council's Africa Center.

NaviSmart AI SEVENeTT unity homes

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