

# CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT, POLICY, AND DEVELOPMENT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CIMPAD SPRING 2025



## CIMPAD RECEPTION MARCH 14, 2025

Please plan to attend the CIMPAD reception that will be held on Morgan State's campus in Baltimore, MD on March 14, 2025, 4 – 6 pm.

Donations will be used to support youth and women entrepreneurial projects in Rwanda. Up to 50 percent of the Rwandan population is under the age of 20 years and only 30 percent of Rwandan businesses are owned by women. We know that when women are economically empowered, they reinvest a significant portion of their income into their families and communities, leading to broader societal benefits.

As we offer opportunities for youth to become entrepreneurs, they will create jobs, bring communities together and inspire others to be successful.



Dr. William Anong, professor at Morgan State and CIMPAD board member has graciously agreed to assist CIMPAD with this worthy event. Professor Ndamyumagabe Phodidas, Professor (pictured above), of Religion at Weimar University will be on hand to share his firsthand experience of the Rwandan genocide and to share his book, "Preaching from the Grave."

Rev. McKinney, CIMPAD board member has also agreed to sell his commemorative poem written in acknowledgment of the 30th anniversary of the genocide that was shared at the CIMPAD Conference in June 2024. We highly encourage Board members to attend this exciting event and donate their support of the project online via the CIMPAD website.

Further details are forthcoming. Please visit [www.cimpad.org](http://www.cimpad.org) for further details.

# NEW SLATE OF CIMPAD BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

An orientation and reorientation was held at the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, on November 1, 2024 for a new slate of 12 board members. Twelve individuals were in attendance and several joined virtually. Harvey White, founding chair provided an historical overview of CIMPAD with input from Berhanu Mengistu, one of the first members of the organization.



David Bell shared the responsibilities of board members and Sy Murray provided a summary of the strategic plan.

Featured: Desiree Rajee, new board member, Berhanu Mengistu, CIMPAD VP, Sam Brown, new board member, Sy Murray, CIMPAD Chair Emeritus.

As we look forward to the future, the following recommendations were made:

1. Assure that the strategic plan reflects who we are and where we are. It needs to be updated to align with our current focus. The African voice needs to be included along with sustainable goals for the future of the organization. Arrange board meetings at a time that is suitable for our African partners, recognizing the 6 to 7 hour time difference.
2. Board revitalization: Assure that there is a membership committee that will grow membership to build organizational capacity. We must follow established practices as approved in bylaws and build a cohesive relationship with each other. We need to expand our international communications with African partners.
3. Finalize the book project before the March fundraiser event. The book will now be coedited by Harvey, Berhanu and Desmond.
4. We need to list projects that we will take on, to include membership, business and fundraising plan.
5. Establish a clear list of board memberships.

Name	Organization	Title
1. Maria Merrills	Winston-Salem State University	Director of International Programs
2. William Anong	Morgan State University	Professor
3. Sam Brown	Old Dominion University	Chair and Professor
4. Rev. Ricky McKinney	AME Zion Church	Pastor
5. KeNeshia Jackson	Alabama A&M University	Graduate Student
6. Isabella Hanson	Cornell University	Undergraduate Student
7. Charles Johnson	North Carolina Central University	Professor
8. Joyce Odongo	OZK	Professor
9. Jerome Hughes	University of the D.C.	Clinical Professor of Law
10. Andrew Ewoh	Texas Southern	Dean and Professor
11. Desiree Rajee	Kapwa Consulting Co.	Executive Director
12. De Lacy Davis	Family Support of Union County	Executive Director

# NEW STUDENT MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT



**ISABELLA HANSON**  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 2027

At the age of 14, Isabella Hanson was inspired to launch the international “I Matter” poetry and art competition on social justice. Sponsored by Gucci, Isabella’s “I Matter” project has grown to draw participation from thousands of youth from 49 states and over 60 countries.

As her project enters Year 5, Isabella manages this global initiative while she is a sophomore student at Cornell University. She has served as an advisor for Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation and is currently a senior staff writer for the Cornell Sun. Isabella has been featured on Nickelodeon’s Kid of the Year program, as well as in Black Enterprise, Forbes Magazine and Medium.com. Isabella is the winner of the inaugural Prudential Emerging Visionaries award, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations and the Princess Diana Award. She was also selected for Teen Vogue’s “21 Under 21” list of revolutionary changemakers.



**KENESHIA JACKSON**  
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 2024

KeNeshia Jackson is a dedicated professional committed to psychology, education, and research. She graduated with honors from Alabama A&M University in Spring 2024 and excelled as a student assistant/manager at the Drake Learning Resource Center for three years, where she supported students and staff with comprehensive resources for academic research and developed strong organizational and leadership skills. Jackson served as the AAMU Psychology Club’s secretary during the 2023-2024 school year, contributing to events and initiatives while guiding four freshmen as a peer mentor, fostering community and support.

Currently, Jackson is a Children’s Care Coordinator at WellStone Inc., North Alabama’s largest behavioral healthcare provider. Jackson has recently been accepted to the Masters of Social Work program at Tuskegee University, concentrating on Child, Family, and Youth. After completing her MSW, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Community Research and Action at Vanderbilt University.

Additionally, KeNeshia is dedicated to bridging the gap for HBCU students in Alabama through her planned nonprofit, #WhyPsych, which aims to support job opportunities, internships, research, and networking within the psychology field.



**Women COW Project in Rwanda  
July 21,2024**

Featured: Mrs. Clemence, PAE Rwanda Executive Director and Mrs. Ephanie who received a cow.

PAE Rwanda through the financial support of CIMPAD Organization has donated 1 cow to Epiphanie Nyiransanzimana who lives in Nyarugenge District, Kanyinya Sector. She is a widow who is raising 3 children on her own. She appreciated the cow donation and stated that the cow production will help her in different ways, having a cow that will yield improved fertilizer and thus potentially boost agricultural production, and also, the cow will produce the milk that will help in providing a healthy diet.



**CIMPAD BOARD ORIENTATION  
AT NFBPA  
NOVEMBER 1,2024**

Featured: Rev. Ricky McKinney, new board member and Harvey White, CIMPAD founding Chair.

Featured: John Saunders, Treasurer, Peggy Valentine, President, Ricky McKinney, New Board Member, Leslee Battle, Board Member, outside of NFBPA offices.

