Bio

Stephen Oluwatobi is the Co-founder and CEO, Quanta Africa, an innovation platform aimed at transforming Africa through innovation. He earned his PhD in Innovation Economics, where he studied how Sub-Saharan African countries could achieve innovation-driven growth.He is the founder and Chairman of Hebron Startup Lab, Covenant University, the first University Startup Accelerator in Nigeria from which great African entrepreneurs have emerged. He also founded Edustart Global to cultivate high- growth entrepreneurs to create transformational businesses to solve Africa's problems.Stephen has been very active in the industry.

He served as the Group CEO of Pertinence Group, an enterprise development group of companies committed to People Development and Innovation. Presently, he leads Quanta, an innovation-based company, which he co-founded to transform Africa through innovation. He is the author of 3 books and a number of research-based publications.

Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi
Co-Founder & CEO, Quanta Africa

Outline

* Introduction:
* The world is build in collaboration (not isolation)
* Where Universities can do better
* What the Industry Needs
* What African Universities can do

Introduction

Innovation is contained in People, Processes, Product & Places

The world is built in collaboration (not isolation)

innovation is the most impactful catalyst from growth (at the micro & macro scale).

There are many players involved in this process of Innovation.

African Universities represents one of the players (among others: the industry, the regulators & the market).

Innovation, therefore, done in African Universities, without strategic collaborations with the relevant key

Where Universities can do better

Universities got it wrong when they disconnected from those whose problems they were meant to solve:
Those who demand for the talents they supply
Those involved in the "practicals" of what the academia "theorizes"

I am referring to the industry, which is the real world where the actions take place.

What the Industry needs

* Great Talents that will not incur them additional training cost upon entry.
* Solutions to their business and market problems validated through research.
* Commercially-viable Ideas from meaningful scientific research that gives an edge in wealth creation.
* The Industry needs to be involved in the development process of the talents to reduce the cost of employing them.
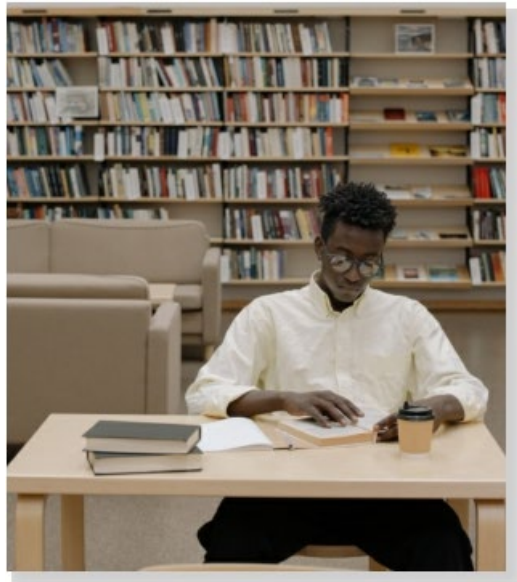
I understand the concerns of the typical academic

* Publish or perish: which drives to publish anything (even at the expense of the relationship with the industry).
* Survival: The need to earn more, climb up the academic corporate ladder, etc. There are solutions to attending to your economic needs.

Some Wealth Creation Tips for Academics

* Be entrepreneurial with your knowledge.

* Doing meaningful research for the industry (based on need).

What African Universities can do

* Foster active meaningful partnerships with organizations and industries, whose problems they can solve.
* Seek to understand the industries problems and make proposals to help solve them through viable research.
* Set up a think-tank or board made of experienced industry experts and key decision makers of the Universities to get the industry involved.

* Faculty members should also be exposed to attend non-academic conferences to understand more about industry needs in order to meet them.
* Design a program that allows industry experts to teach your students at the u undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
* The entrepreneurial ecosystem should be instilled in African Universities.

Conclusion

* The company we call Google, which is now valued at about US$1.5T, was born out of University-Industry relationships.
* The Apple Inc. AI assistant (Siri) was bought by Apple from Stanford for US$200M.
* Africa has enough problems begging to be solved. Such solutions can be created with ease through University-Industry collaboration, which would lead to wealth creation for all parties.
* Finally, institutionalize University-Industry collaboration by setting up systems to sustainably drive such relationships as well as get the desired results.

Thank You