MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

AN INVITATION TO OUR PARTNERS IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Global Higher Education Leadership

Navigating Institutional Transformation in the AI Era

SCAN TO REGISTER

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

12:30–2:00 PM EST | 6:30–8:00 PM WAT | 8:30–10:00 PM EAT

Free 90-minute panel and leadership workshop · Zoom · Live Q&A

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION TRANSFORMATION IN THE AI ERA

Universities worldwide are shaping the future of artificial intelligence, and academic leaders have a direct role in guiding that work across regions and cultures. Morgan State University experts open this global conversation to explore lasting partnerships with institutions across Africa and around the world in leadership development, research, and innovation. **In celebration of International Education Week.**

SESSION HIGHLIGHT
Reimagining academic programs and curricula

SESSION HIGHLIGHT
Redesigning teaching, learning, and assessment

SESSION HIGHLIGHT
Leading AI-enabled operations and a culture of innovation



KEYNOTE

Yacob Astatke, D.Eng.

Assistant Vice President for International Affairs, Morgan State University



MODERATOR

Samson D. Teffera, PMP

Program Manager, VE COIL Training Center, Morgan State University Division of International Affairs

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Hakeem Tijani

Professor of History & Executive Director, Office of Global Partnerships – Africa

Reimagining Academic Programs and Curricula in AI Age



Dr. Valerie C. Riggs

Associate Professor, Teacher Education & Professional Development

Building Capacity for AI in Teaching and Learning



Dr. Dereje Tessema

Full-Time Lecturer, School of Business

Leading Change Through AI-Enabled Operations and Organizational Culture

Register on the GLII page: glii.powerappsportals.com

or scan the QR code · Zoom link: **morganstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Mcf6kEQyRuS4s9PPZ-thRA**

Hosted by the Division of International Affairs, Office of Global Partnerships – Africa, and Teacher Education & Professional Development (SEUS), Morgan State University
In partnership with the **Global Leadership & Innovation Institute (GLII)**

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

EST	WAT	SESSION	PRESENTER
12:30–12:35	6:30–6:35	**Welcome and Housekeeping**	**Samson D. Teffera, PMP**, Moderator
12:35–12:45	6:35–6:45	**Opening Keynote**: Higher Education Institution Transformation in the AI Era	**Dr. Yacob Astatke**, Assistant Vice President for International Affairs
12:45–1:05	6:45–7:05	**Paper 1**: Reimagining Academic Programs and Curricula in AI Age	Dr. Hakeem Tijani
1:05–1:25	7:05–7:25	**Paper 2**: Redesigning Teaching, Learning, and Assessment	Dr. Valerie C. Riggs
1:25–1:45	7:25–7:45	**Paper 3**: Leading Change Through AI-Enabled Operations and Organizational Culture	Dr. Dereje Tessema
1:45–1:57	7:45–7:57	**Moderated Q&A**	All speakers
1:57–2:00	7:57–8:00	**Closing and Next Steps** (Leadership Workshop details)	Samson D. Teffera, PMP

EAT is one hour ahead of WAT (8:30–10:00 PM EAT).

KEYNOTE



KEYNOTE

Dr. Yacob Astatke

Assistant VP for International Affairs, Morgan State University

Dr. Yacob Astatke currently serves as the Assistant Vice President (AVP) for the Division of International Affairs (DIA) at Morgan State University (MSU). As the AVP, he plays a key role in implementing the “Morgan Global” initiative as part of Morgan’s new 10-year strategic plan (2021-2030). As such, the DIA is actively seeking to expand Morgan’s relationships and partnerships with universities and public/private organizations worldwide, in line with our strategic plan of “Growing the Future, and Leading the World,” and to position Morgan as a “Global HBCU.” Prior to becoming the AVP for International Affairs in 2017, Dr. Astatke was a full-time faculty member in the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. School of Engineering for over 23 years, where he rose to the position of Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. For the past 20 years, Dr. Astatke has facilitated the donation of hundreds of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) portable laboratory instrumentation boards and has conducted capacity-building training workshops for more than 50 universities in Ethiopia and other countries in Africa and Asia, in collaboration with the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) and the African Engineering Education Association (AEEA).

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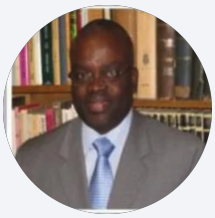

SPEAKER

Dr. Hakeem Tijani

Executive Director, Office of Global Partnerships – Africa, Morgan State University

Dr. Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani is a professor of History and the Executive Director of the Office of Global Partnerships – Africa in Morgan State University, Division of International Affairs. He leads Morgan's work to build academic partnerships with universities across Africa. His scholarship examines nationalist movements, decolonization and liberation struggles in British West Africa during the Cold War, and he is a strong advocate for multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to teaching. He previously served as the founding deputy vice chancellor and dean of the Faculty of Arts and Education at Adeleke University in Nigeria, and founding director of the Centre of Excellence in Migration and Global Studies at the National Open University of Nigeria, where he remains a visiting professor. He is a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters and the Royal Historical Society and was a U.S. Fulbright Specialist at Afro-American University of Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea.



SPEAKER

Dr. Valerie C. Riggs

Associate Professor, Teacher Education & Professional Development, Morgan State University

Dr. Valerie C. Riggs is an Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education & Professional Development at Morgan State University. She teaches educational technology and action research. She speaks at conferences and workshops on AI in education, and develops training for university faculty and K–12 teachers in the United States and Africa. She was a U.S. Fulbright Specialist in Equatorial Guinea, where she worked alongside faculty to strengthen AI capacity at a national university. She leads undergraduate study abroad programs in Ghana, Costa Rica and Japan, and she is affiliated faculty with the NSF Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society (TRAILS). She holds an Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership from Morgan State University, and master's degrees in education and in instructional technology from the University of Maryland System.



SPEAKER

Dr. Dereje Tessema

Full-Time Lecturer, School of Business, Morgan State University

Dr. Dereje Tessema is a Full-Time Lecturer in the School of Business at Morgan State University and a scholar-practitioner in organizational transformation, leadership and agility. He developed the Tessema Multiple Intelligence Framework (TMIF), the Tessema Pillars of Organizational Transformation and Agility (TPOTA) and the integrative DOME Model. He has more than 15 years of graduate teaching experience and is adjunct faculty at Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies, where he received the 2025 Tropaia Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Tessema brings more than 20 years of federal government and consulting experience, most recently at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He is the founder of InnoLearn Systems, creator of the EduSuite360 platform, and has led transformation and leadership programs for banks and institutions in Ethiopia. He holds PhDs from Capitol Technology University and Walden University, an M.S. from the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, and PMP, PMI-ACP, SAFe SPC and Certified Enterprise Architect credentials.

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MODERATOR

Samson D. Teffera, PMP

Program Manager, VE-COIL & Training, and Project Management, Office of International Affairs, Morgan State University

Samson Demissie Teffera is a federal technology leader, educator, and humanitarian advocate with more than 25 years of experience, including over two decades in senior IT roles in the U.S. federal government. He currently serves as the Virtual Exchange and Collaborative Online International Learning (VE/COIL) Program Manager in Morgan State University's Division of International Affairs, where he builds programs that connect students across continents without the need to travel. He is also the Founder and CEO of Three C Consulting LLC, an advisory firm that strengthens public–private partnerships, advances international development, and builds digital capacity across U.S. and African markets. A skilled moderator, Samson is often invited to lead high-level conferences and executive dialogues across Africa, particularly in Ethiopia. He has moderated webinars with leading experts on the Nile River, regional cooperation, and water diplomacy, bringing clarity and balanced perspectives to complex geopolitical issues.

Building Capacity for AI in Teaching and Learning
Dr. Valerie Riggs

Generative AI is changing how students learn and how faculty teach and assess. This session shows how educators can use AI responsibly to personalize learning, support under-prepared students and design assessments that measure real understanding. It draws on AI literacy training for faculty and teachers in the United States and Africa, and shows how educators build trust and capacity for using AI.

Reimagining Academic Programs and Curricula in the Age of AI
Dr. Hakeem Tijani

AI is reshaping the knowledge and skills graduates need. This session examines how universities can redesign programs and curricula for an AI-driven economy, from embedding AI literacy across disciplines to creating new interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary programs. It also explores how African universities and Morgan State can co-develop curricula, joint programs and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) courses.

Leading Change Through AI-Enabled Operations and Organizational Culture
Dr. Dereje Tessema

Technology alone does not transform an institution; leadership and culture do. This session presents a practical approach to leading AI-enabled change, from diagnosing institutional readiness and streamlining administrative operations to building data-informed decision-making and an adaptive, innovation-ready culture. It draws on organizational transformation frameworks developed through doctoral research and applied with banks and public institutions.

ABOUT GLII

The **Global Leadership & Innovation Institute (GLII)** extends high-quality teaching and research to working professionals, organizations and public institutions across Africa, the Middle East, South America and Asia. It offers professional development, upskilling, micro-credential and certificate programs, builds co-branded academic partnerships and convenes global research conferences.

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