

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **First Global Executive MBA in Health Leadership & Management in Africa Launched**

**NAIROBI, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013...** the United States International University (USIU) and the Africa Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) today signed an agreement to launch a Global Executive Master of Business Administration (GEMBA) in Health Leadership & Management at AMREF's International Training Centre and Headquarters. This Executive MBA targets health professionals in equipping them with skills to effectively manage and lead health systems in a dynamic environment. While African universities offer MBAs for other professionals, this program is the first of its kind in Africa and will provide training that most leaders in health management require but cannot access.

A leader in training for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa, AMREF has over the last four years been running a two-year Leadership Development Program. The partnership will enable more leaders across the continent to benefit from AMREF's experience and expertise in training health professionals, and USIU's renowned leadership and management training expertise in Africa. AMREF will sponsor students 14 students annually at an approximate cost of 30 Million Kenya Shillings over three years. The course will be facilitated by USIU lecturers.

At the end of the one-year course, the 30 health professionals will be equipped with the right skills to manage resources in order to reach poor and underprivileged communities in Africa. They will be able to address some of the problems facing health institutions such as wastage of resources and lack of accountability.

The program will build leadership and management skills in health professionals including financial management, human resource management, procurement management, management of health institutions in general and analysis of impact and changes in health care in particular. The development of strategic thinking will enable health professionals to manage complex

organizational scenarios by equipping them with good governance skills, accountability and an in-depth understanding of health systems management.

According to AMREF, most doctors in Kenya gravitate towards cities with large hospitals with many abandoning public practice to work in private clinics while others leave Kenya to work overseas. As a result, community health centers in remote locations suffer an acute shortage of trained professionals. The partnership between AMREF and USIU will therefore go a long way in contributing positively to devolution and the Government's commitment to putting in place measures towards guaranteeing quality and affordable healthcare to all Kenyans despite the challenges grappling the current health infrastructure caused by mismanagement rather than lack of resources.

The MBA in Health Leadership & Management also comes against a backdrop of Kenya being denied funds by the [Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) to a tune of approximately 61 Billion Kenya Shillings in 2008 and 2009 due to mismanagement of previous funds. With better skilled medical practitioners in management, Kenya will improve its chances of attracting donor funds against killer diseases at the county level, having a significant impact on devolution of government.

Prof. Freida Brown, Vice Chancellor at USIU emphasized on the importance of institutions of higher learning providing quality education that promotes not only innovation in an increasingly technological world but also to be socially responsible by providing leadership that responds to issues of national and global concern through collaborative efforts.

"The partnership between AMREF and USIU will provide an opportunity for Kenyans to upgrade their education, particularly for those who cannot afford to travel abroad for studies. The graduates will serve as human resource for Kenya and other countries in the region that have similar academic program histories and needs. The curriculum will be revised from time to time to ensure that it meets the needs of health professionals," said Prof. Brown.

The launch of an MBA in Health Leadership Management comes months after Hon. James Macharia was appointed as the Health Cabinet Secretary for his success in the banking sector

despite opposition from the medical fraternity. This sited a gap in the leadership of health institutions where health professionals are often promoted due to their health expertise and therefore, most lack skills in management.

“Organizations are dependent on good management in order to be efficient and effective. Health systems in Africa can cater for the disadvantaged if those managing them have the skills to tap into existing resources and use them optimally,” said Dr. Peter Ngatia, AMREF’s Director of Capacity Building.

### About USIU

USIU’s mission is to promote the discovery and application of knowledge, the acquisition of skills, and the development of intellect and character in a manner that prepares students to contribute effectively in an increasingly technological world.

The Global Executive Master of Business Administration in Health Leadership and Management is being offered by USIU’s [Chandaria School of Business](#) in collaboration with [AMREF](#). The mission of GEMBA is to meet the needs of high potential executives seeking a world class education focused on globalization, entrepreneurship and applicability.

USIU programs are recognized by the *Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) of United States and by the Commission for University Education (CUE)*. This dual accreditation guarantees quality global education and transferability of credits from USIU to any university in Kenya, USA and the rest of the world.

### **About AMREF**

AMREF's vision is for lasting health change in Africa: communities with the knowledge, skills and means to maintain their good health and break the cycle of poor health and poverty. AMREF believes in the inherent power within African communities – that the power for lasting transformation of Africa’s health lies within its communities.

AMREF shares knowledge gained from its grassroots programs with others, and uses it as evidence to advocate appropriate change in health policy and practice. In all its programs,



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AMREF partners with communities, civil society organizations', health practitioners, and the private and public sectors to establish a participatory health care system.

**End.../**