



## *Report of the presentation of Award Plaque to Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Uganda*

**“ I really want to thank you for the award and the recognition. Thank you for bringing this home. Thank you for the courage and efforts and commitment you have put in thus far. What you’re doing is not just a contribution to our university; it is great for our country. I assure you that we, as the administration, have the full support you need, and we’re willing, very willing to support you with your wonderful work.”**

Since 2021, we've been united under the Next Generation Leaders Program, working together as a group of young leaders with a strong commitment to making our universities more engaged with the community. Our vision is focused on changing the way people see universities—not merely as institutions for academic learning, but as hubs for continuous learning, unlearning, and relearning, and fostering collaboration to address pressing challenges.

We've had the unique opportunity to share our stories, drawing from the lens of our own experiences as young leaders. These narratives have been presented at conferences, workshops, and even featured in articles on platforms like World University News. Our engagements have extended to community campus events, consultations, and valuable mentorship from experts, coordinated by our wonderful coaches at paNhari.

Through the For Youth By Youth Initiative, our focus is to concretize our efforts and realize our shared vision. The first step in realizing this vision is to forge partnerships,

starting with our universities.

On Friday, December 22, 2022, we had a unique opportunity to present an award plaque to Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University. This was on behalf of the Mastercard Foundation and the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, acknowledging his significant contribution and commitment to driving Makerere University to become an institution that upholds the ideals of university community engagement, social service, and responsibility.

As alumni of the Next Generation Leaders program, turned For Youth By Youth pioneers, we used the opportunity to share our vision for the For Youth By Youth initiative. We asked for the university's support and collaboration in helping nurture and grow our vision.

In response, the Vice Chancellor conveyed his appreciation for the award and the wonderful recognition bestowed on him and the entire university. He reiterated the commitment of the university to nurture and grow visionary leaders as champions of civic engagement,

social service, and responsibility. He emphasized his continued commitment to support student-led and alumni initiatives, stating that such endeavors not only amplify the university's image but also contribute to the welfare of the entire country. He said, 'I really want to thank you for the award and the recognition. Thank you for bringing this home. Thank you for the courage and efforts and commitment you have put in thus far. What you're doing is not just a contribution to our university; it is great for our country. I assure you that we, as the administration, have the full support you need, and we're willing, very willing to support you with your wonderful work.' He added, 'Please, don't hesitate to engage us, especially for your community engagement efforts. Keep us informed, and let's see how we could work together to support you and your wonderful work.'

We thanked the Vice Chancellor for the encouraging and inspiring words and pledged to keep him and the entire university informed about our progress as we advance with our For Youth By Youth initiative.

**Compiled by**

Harunah & Patrovas

### **About the Authors**

Harunah Damba and Patrovas Gabriel Okidi are recent graduates from Makerere University in Uganda. Harunah graduated with a degree in biomedical laboratory technology, while Patrovas graduated with a degree in statistics. Both students have actively participated in the Mastercard Foundation Next Generation Leaders program, implemented in partnership with the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities since 2021. To this day, their commitment endures as they ambitiously work to expand the Next Generation Leaders Program through the 'For Youth, By Youth' initiative, with support from the Mastercard Foundation.