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Constant D. Beugré

Building
Entrepreneurial
Ecosystems
in Sub-Saharan
Africa

A Quintuple Helix Model

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Constant D. Beugré
Delaware State University
Dover, Delaware, USA

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PREFACE

I had the opportunity to spend the spring semester and the summer of 2014 in Ghana as a Fulbright scholar at Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG). The focus of my Fulbright scholarship was both teaching and research. I spent my time teaching an undergraduate course in entrepreneurship and developing a new curriculum for a concentration in entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level and in the MBA program. I also developed a proposal for a Master of Philosophy in Entrepreneurship for the Center for Entrepreneurship Education, Research, and Training (CEERT). As outreach activities, I developed workshop proposals for entrepreneurs and a summer camp for high school students. All these endeavors were under the umbrella of the CEERT. I also conducted research on fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa. When I returned to the United States, I presented some of my research findings at the 6th Africa Business Conference held at Syracuse University in March 2015 and at the George Washington University in October 2015.

This book builds on this research effort. It explores the creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The literature in economics and entrepreneurship has underscored the role of entrepreneurship in economic growth and development since the seminal work of Joseph Schumpeter in the 1930s. In the context of sub-Saharan Africa, not much attention has been devoted to entrepreneurship as a means of combating poverty and creating wealth. The dominant paradigm for young graduates so far has been that governments will provide them with jobs after graduation. This model is unsustainable because governments are not creators of jobs. Rather, they should create environments

where individual entrepreneurs and organizations can strive. The book focuses on sub-Saharan Africa for at least two reasons. First, this region of the world is the least developed one. Second, and most importantly, sub-Saharan Africa has enormous potential including natural resources as well as an “army” of young people that could contribute to the economic renaissance of the continent if given the opportunity to do so. This book is for policy makers and national and local governments of sub-Saharan Africa who are eager to create a more favorable landscape for their citizenry, especially the youth who cannot find employment after graduation. It is also geared toward entrepreneurship scholars who intend to explore the conditions that could lead to the development of entrepreneurship research and education in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have directly and/or indirectly shaped my thinking about the topic discussed in this book. First, I would like to thank Dr. Ato Essuman of the CEERT at Methodist University College Ghana with whom I had a fruitful collaboration during my Fulbright scholarship at this institution. I would also like to thank the President of the Methodist University College Ghana. Finally, I thank the colleagues who have provided feedback on early drafts and paper presentations on some of the ideas discussed in this book. All errors and shortcomings are mine.

Dover, DE, USA
April 30, 2016

Constant D. Beugré, Ph.D.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Constant D. Beugré (PhD Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) is a professor of management at Delaware State University, College of Business, where he teaches courses in organizational behavior and entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level and organizational leadership at the graduate level. Prior to joining Delaware State University, Dr. Beugré was an assistant professor of management and information systems at Kent State University, Tuscarawas Campus. Dr. Beugré was also a visiting fellow at Harvard University in 1996. He recently completed a Fulbright Scholarship at Methodist University College, Ghana, in spring and summer 2014. Dr. Beugré's research interests include organizational justice, entrepreneurship, and organizational neuroscience. Dr. Beugré has published five books and more than 70 refereed journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. His publications have appeared in academic outlets, such as *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Business and Psychology*, *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, *International Journal of Manpower*, *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, and *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*.