



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **ESPRIT Group and Honoris United Universities Join Forces to Accelerate STEM Education in Africa**

***As a member of the Honoris pan-African network, engineering centre of excellence ESPRIT bolsters its STEM education capabilities across Francophone Africa and beyond***

**Tunis, XX December 2020** – Today, Honoris United Universities, the first and largest pan-African network of private higher education institutions, deepened its focus on STEM education for the next generation of African leaders and entrepreneurs by welcoming ESPRIT Group into the organization.

Founded in 2003 by three pioneering Tunisian higher education academics – Prof. Tahar Ben Lakhdar, Prof. Naceur Ammar, and Prof. Mohamed Jaoua – ESPRIT Group provides students with a dynamic range of specialities and courses in computer engineering, telecommunications engineering, civil engineering, electromechanical engineering, and management science. The flagship school of the Group has accredited all its programs with the French accreditation agency "Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs" (CTI) and the French Conference des Grandes Ecoles and is an active member of the CDIO initiative (Conceive Design Implement Operate). These recognitions demonstrate the world-class pedagogy created by ESPRIT's faculty and have contributed to strongly positioning Tunisia as an academic centre of excellence for STEM education within the global research and innovation ecosystems.

As the newest member of the Honoris network, ESPRIT Group significantly boosts Honoris' pan-African strengths in engineering and in STEM education, critical areas for developing highly skilled and competitive professionals in the African, digital and globally disrupted worlds of work. Moreover, the addition of ESPRIT to the Honoris family of institutions provides students across the entire network with access to innovative teaching methods – such as an active pedagogy methodology – and to strong relationships with the international industrial and business worlds, elements that have made ESPRIT the go-to institution for engineering qualifications.

Commenting on the announcement, **Honoris CEO Luis Lopez** said *“Welcoming the highly regarded ESPRIT Group into Honoris United Universities adds significant breadth and expertise to the network and its pan-African mission as students across the entire continent will have access to best of class industry-oriented STEM education. ESPRIT Group students will also gain access to diverse academic experiences at Honoris, based on our Education for Impact ethos and a singular focus on preparing for a Fourth Industrial Revolution world of work. This partnership is a unique opportunity to build on the legacy of ESPRIT by expanding its success and impact to Africa's future leaders. I congratulate ESPRIT Group for its significant trajectory and look forward to our future journeys.”*

As one of the largest education organizations in Northern Africa, the ESPRIT Group comprises four institutions including a tertiary engineering/technology school, a tertiary business school, a kindergarten and primary school (Al-Kindi), and a secondary school (Al Fikr). The integration of the group complements Honoris' robust foundations in traditional education and in 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning ecosystems covering collaborative, solutions-oriented and creative ways of thinking. This structure across the broad age groups prepares graduates with a future-ready mindset upon reaching tertiary education or the workplace.



**Tahar Ben Lakhdar, CEO of ESPRIT Group** said, *“There is a very clear shared set of values between ESPRIT Group and Honoris – a challenging, disruptive and innovative pedagogical model that places prime importance on learning for solutions and educating for impact, a firm belief in the power of collaboration and shared experiences; and a desire to build capacity to put Africa on the global business map with highly skilled and internationally competitive professionals. As we enter our eighteenth year, the faculty that has helped build this winning establishment will now join hands with a unique, international academic model for further future success.”*

Amidst the global challenges of COVID-19, Honoris continues to expand its footprint in Africa by recently welcoming Nile University of Nigeria and Red & Yellow Creative School of Business in South Africa to its network. ESPRIT represents the 14<sup>th</sup> institution in the Honoris network, which is now home to 57,000 students across the continent.

Extending from Casablanca to Cape Town and from Abuja to Tunis to Mauritius, the Honoris network is now present in 10 countries and 32 cities, amassing significant expertise in contact, distance, and online education. Its institutions are well established authorities within the disciplines of Medical & Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Creative Arts & Design, Media, Political Science and Education.

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### About Honoris United Universities

Honoris United Universities is the first and largest pan-African private higher education network committed to educating the next generation of African leaders and professionals able to impact regionally in a globalized world. Collaborative intelligence, cultural agility and mobile mind-sets and skills are at the heart of Honoris’ vision of higher education. Honoris United Universities joins the expertise of its member institutions to develop world-class African Human capital that is competitive in today’s fast-paced, demanding and increasingly digitized labour and start-up markets.

Honoris United Universities gathers a community of **57,000** students on **70** campuses, learning centres and via on-line, in **10** countries and **32** cities. The network counts **14** institutions: multidisciplinary universities, specialized schools, technical and vocational institutes, contact, distance, and online institutions. Students have an opportunity to experience exclusive partnerships and exchange programs in more than **85** universities across Europe and the United States. Over **300** degrees are offered in Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Creative Arts and Design, Media, Political Science and Education.

Honoris United Universities. Education for Impact®. [www.honoris.net](http://www.honoris.net)

### About ESPRIT Group

Founded in 2003, private education provider ESPRIT Group is structured around four education verticals, namely "Engineering education", "Continuing education", "K12 education" and "Business & Management education". ESPRIT School of Engineering has built its reputation on excellence in Tunisia and in several sub-Saharan African countries, which has enabled it to establish numerous partnerships in the industry and with renowned universities. By 2017, all of its academic programs are EUR-ACE labelled, through the French accreditation agency: "Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs" (CTI). Since its inception, ESPRIT has adopted the active pedagogy called PBL (Project/Problem Based Learning) and is a member of the CDIO (Conceive Design Implement Operate) initiative launched by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH, Sweden) since 2013 as well as a member of the "Conférence des Grandes Ecoles", an association of the most prestigious business and engineering schools in France. ESPRIT also boasts a Research, Development and Innovation (R&DI) department,



“ESPRIT-Tech” where several teams work on a variety of research projects related to cutting-edge technology.

The Group manages approximately 80,000m<sup>2</sup> of space, employs around 700 people and hosts more than 10,600 students and pupils.

<https://esprit.tn/>

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