



University Prep Schools is pleased to announce a partnership with the Africa-America Institute (AAI) in a project aimed at transforming the student educational experience. Through a multi-pronged holistic approach, the partnership will include advising and funding aimed at increasing academic rigor and providing professional development for teachers and leaders intended to increase their capacity to provide a culturally responsive education to students. Founded in 1953, The Africa-America Institute (AAI) is a premier U.S.-based international organization dedicated to strengthening human capacity of Africans and promoting the continent's development through higher education and skills training, convening activities, program implementation and management. AAI identifies capacity-building projects and coordinates the programmatic, financial administration and evaluation necessary to deliver high-impact results.

In the partnership, University Prep Schools will engage in several activities:

- Cohorts of teachers and leaders will participate in the Culturally Responsive Education by Design Online Professional Learning Community with Zaretta Hammond, author of the book *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*.
- Secondary Social Studies teachers will attend a History of the African Diaspora Lecture Series with professors from the Michigan State University Department of History to provide them with more background of the great history of Africa prior to colonization and the great contributions of people of the African Diaspora often left out of traditional history courses.
- A review and revision of curricula to be more culturally relevant and social justice oriented.
- Surveys and focus groups of students, staff, and parents to allow the voice of all stakeholders to contribute to our efforts to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.