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Monroe College and SEED Project Announce Innovative Program to Increase College Access and Affordability for Students in Africa

Pilot Program Kicks Off in Senegal this Week

BRONX, NY, AND DAKAR, SENEGAL, September 6, 2021 -- [Monroe College](#), a national leader in educating urban and international students, and [SEED Project](#), an international non-profit organization that provides academic, athletic, and leadership development programs to promising students in Africa, today announced the launch of a visionary program to make Monroe's undergraduate programs available to students in Senegal this fall.

Through this academic collaboration, African students accepted into the program will be able to pursue an Associate or Bachelor's degree program through Monroe's fully accredited online platform, while receiving academic support, tutoring, mentoring, advising and student life activities on-site at a conveniently located facility housed at the International School of Dakar (ISD) in Dakar, Senegal.

Nine undergraduate programs are initially offered. Students successfully completing their degree program will earn their U.S diploma from Monroe, joining its alumni from all around the world.

A celebration was held at ISD today to launch the program and welcome the first six SEED Monroe students. They will start their courses this Thursday.

"We are excited to partner with the SEED Project on this incredible program to help gifted students in Senegal obtain their undergraduate degree from Monroe," said Marc Jerome, president of Monroe College. "SEED has been doing amazing work to open doors of opportunity for Africa's future leaders, and we are honored to help make the college dreams of these deserving kids come true." The SEED Project is equally excited about this promising venture.

“This innovative SEED Monroe College pilot project is going to bring about enormous opportunities and open-up life changing pathways not only for these six competent youth but for many other youth in Africa to follow,” said Joseph Lopez, President of SEED Project. “We are honored to have partnered with the reputable Monroe College that has considerable experience with online learning and international students, and the generosity of our sponsors really bring it to fruition.”

The students’ tuition and fees for the program are generously covered by student scholarships funded through SEED Project’s dedicated partners. Longtime SEED supporter Africa Development Solutions (ADS) was the first to provide support by offering SEED Monroe College scholarships to some selected students through its subsidiary, Social Nation Africa. Donors wishing to contribute to the initiative may contact Begay Downes-Thomas (begaydt@seedproject.org) or Brian Benjamin (brian@seedproject.org) for more information.

Students accepted into the program may choose from nine initial areas of study. Monroe retains full academic oversight, with the online programs leveraging the College’s existing curriculum, course content, and learning management system. The first programs offered are:

- Accounting (Associate or Bachelor’s)
- Business Administration (Associate)
- Business Management (Bachelor’s)
- Computer Information Systems (Associate or Bachelor’s)
- Criminal Justice (Associate or Bachelor’s)
- Health Services Administration (Bachelor’s)
- Hospitality Management (Associate or Bachelor’s)
- Public Health (Bachelor’s)
- Sports Management (Associate or Bachelor’s)

Classes will be held online, with in-person academic and personal support offered in space graciously provided by the International School of Dakar in the Mermoz area. Student activities will also be available to provide a robust college experience. Equally exciting, students will have the opportunity to participate in an academic and cultural immersion trip to New York during their third semester of the program.

Monroe offers three full academic semesters per year, enabling full-time students to earn an Associate degree in less than two years and a Bachelor’s degree in less than three years. This accelerated timetable allows graduates to begin their careers sooner than graduates of institutions only offering two semesters each year.

Students interested in applying to the program may contact Jennifer Melbourne in New York at 914-740-6543 or jmelbourne@monroecollege.edu.

ABOUT SEED PROJECT

The Sports for Education and Economic Development (SEED) Project (SEEDProject.org) is an international non-government organization that believes every youth in Africa deserves the right to be supported so they can reach their full potential. Using sport as a catalyst, SEED Project exists to

educate, equip, and empower youth from across Africa with the right tools so that they, in turn, can become active actors of development on the African continent. SEED Academy, based in Thiès, Senegal serves 40 high-school boys and girls annually with boarding and after school athletic, academic and leadership programs, enabling students to matriculate to university programs from institutions in Senegal, the United States, and Europe.

Follow SEED Project on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT MONROE COLLEGE

Founded in 1933, Monroe College is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The College is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receive for strongly impacting its graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates 8,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of St. Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroecollege.edu>.

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