



KUCCPS BULLETIN

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A monthly newsletter from KUCCPS



CORPORATE NEWS

KUCCPS 1ST National Career Conference and Exhibition



The Principal Secretary for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, officially opened KUCCPS inaugural National Career Conference and Exhibition that was held at KICC from 27–29 January 2026. She described the career conference as a national milestone that elevates career guidance into a strategic tool for Kenya’s economic transformation.

“Informed career choices are critical in addressing skills mismatches and youth unemployment” she noted and aligned the conference with the Government’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. Dr. Inyangala commended KUCCPS for institutionalising career guidance through the forum, which brings together universities, TVET institutions, educators, policymakers and industry players to align education with labour market needs. She also reaffirmed the State Department’s commitment to producing employable, adaptable and globally competitive graduates, and urged students, particularly the KCSE Class of 2025, to use the platform to make deliberate, well-informed career decisions that will shape their futures and the nation’s workforce.

KUCCPS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome highlighted KUCCPS role in steering learners towards informed, equitable and labour-market-responsive career pathways under the theme **Informed Career Choices; A Skilled and Competitive Workforce**. Dr. Wahome noted that with youth unemployment standing at alarming levels, KUCCPS is adopting data-driven and inclusive placement systems, enhanced stakeholder collaboration and future-focused guidance strategies to ensure that “the future of student placement and career alignment is adaptive, inclusive and labour market intelligence-driven.”



Editor's Note

Hello Readers,

This edition of the KUCCPS monthly bulletin is special to us. Not only because it is the first in 2026, but also because it documents the biggest event that KUCCPS has hosted in its 11 years of existence – the 1st National Career Conference and Exhibition. The conference, held from 27th to 29th January 2026, attracted universities, colleges, government agencies and over 5,650 participants including parents, students and Form Four leavers. Read more about this ground-breaking event on the first and subsequent pages.

Besides the conference, this edition highlights preparations for the 2026/2027 placement cycle applications. On particular focus is ongoing discussion between KUCCPS and the Kenya Utalii College, whose globally-acclaimed hospitality training programmes will be offered on the KUCCPS application platform this year.

Regarding environmental conservation and promotion of sports tourism careers, KUCCPS participated in the annual Tinderet Barngetuny Mountain Run. This annual event combines a mountain run championship with cultural tourism and tree growing, aligning with both KUCCPS mandate and Corporate Social Investment objectives. For these are much more, enjoy reading!

Paul Juma,
Editor

Credits

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KUCCPS 1ST National Career Conference and Exhibition



KUCCPS staff led by the Management team participated in the 3-day conference held at KICC. The conference program featured a rich, 3-day programme designed to promote informed career choices and strengthen linkages between education, training and the labour market. The conference brought together senior government officials, higher education leaders, industry players and development partners for high-level dialogue on building a skilled and competitive workforce.

The programme opened with a high-level panel discussion on Tertiary Education in Kenya: Trends, Milestones and Opportunities, chaired by the KUCCPS Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome, PhD, and featuring leaders from the Commission for University Education, public universities and national polytechnics. Subsequent sessions addressed key thematic areas including youth empowerment and employability, financial awareness, career guidance, student placement, and the importance of professional certification in aligning education with industry standards.



Participants also benefited from expert presentations on higher education financing, scholarships and government sponsorships by HELB, the Universities Fund and KASNEB, alongside discussions on aligning education and training to labour market needs, bridging training and professional practice, and restoring confidence in university education as a pathway to employability. Interactive sessions, including *What Next After KCSE?* provided practical guidance to learners and parents navigating post-secondary education choices. The conference emphasized KUCCPS' commitment to coordinated career guidance, mentorship and stakeholder collaboration in shaping Kenya's human capital development agenda.

Enhanced Access to Hospitality Courses through the KUCCPS Portal



KUCCPS and Kenya Utalii College have entered into a new partnership that will, for the first time, allow students seeking admission to hospitality and tourism programmes to apply through the KUCCPS placement system significantly expanding access to the college’s globally recognised training. Set to be launched ahead of the 2026 placement cycle, the collaboration aims to promote fairness, equity and national reach in student admissions while supporting labour market research, career pathway development and grassroots mobilisation. Speaking during the announcement in Nairobi, KUCCPS Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome and Kenya Utalii College, Principal Mr. Mark Rachuonyo Ogendi described the initiative as a game changer that aligns with the Government’s approach to strengthening technical and vocational education. The partnership also positions Kenya Utalii College, an affiliate member of UN Tourism and a Centre of Excellence with 50 years of experience in competency-based hospitality and tourism training, among specialised institutions leveraging the transparent KUCCPS platform to reach learners across the country.

KUCCPS contribution to Sports, Education, and Environmental Conservation in the Tinderet Barg’etuny Mountain Run

KUCCPS participated as a sponsor in the 5th edition of the Tinderet Barg’etuny Mountain Run that took place on Saturday, January 17, 2026 in Nandi County. The event was graced by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign & Diaspora Affairs H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Head of Public Service, Hon. Felix Koskei and Chairman of National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education, Hon. Julius K. Melly, among other dignitaries. KUCCPS staff engaged in career guidance forums with form four leavers and other locals participating in the race sensitizing them on career opportunities in sports, education, and environmental conservation. The objectives of the mountain run are in line with KUCCPS commitment to supporting sports, education, creative arts and environmental sustainability in the era of Competency Based Education (CBE).



KUCCPS at DeKUT Open Day; Igniting Careers in a Tech-Driven World



Dr. Agnes Wahome, KUCCPS CEO, officiated the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) Annual Academic Open Day, as Chief Guest, on 30th January 2026. The event themed “Igniting Careers in a Tech-Driven World,” drew over 5,000 participants, including form four leavers, parents, secondary school students, educators, and other stakeholders who were all eager to explore pathways to higher education and tech-driven careers. During the forum, KUCCPS staff provided career guidance to the participants especially form four leavers on degree programmes and future career opportunities. At KUCCPS, we remain committed to empowering learners with accurate information for informed course choices that align with their passions, market demands, and national development goals.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



"Skilled, knowledgeable, and adaptable population is the backbone of national development and sustained economic growth."

-Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education



"The forum was intentionally designed as a "one-stop shop" to provide students, parents, and other stakeholders with comprehensive information on higher education and training pathways."

-Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Board Member KUCCPS and VC University of Embu



"The conference is a platform for direct interaction between stakeholders and KUCCPS, strengthening engagement on matters of placement, career guidance, and access to higher education."

-Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome, CEO KUCCPS



"Education is the most powerful weapon, which can be used to change the world, and that post-secondary education fuels growth and unity."

-Mr. Geoffrey Monari, CEO, HELB



"The Commission's primary mandate is to ensure that education offered by institutions meets established quality standards."

-Prof. Jackson Too for Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO CUE



"The primary mandate of TVET institutions is to develop skills aligned with both local and global labour market demands."

-Dr. Felix Mung'atu Board Member KUCCPS and Principal Nyandarua National Polytechnic



"Career guidance is no longer based on jobs but lifetime planning and advancement."

-Prof. Livingstone Ngoo, for Prof. Rosebella O. Maranga, MBS, VC, Multimedia University of Kenya



"Sports tourism goes beyond competition; it brings people together, promotes a healthy lifestyle, creates employment, and supports education."

-Mr. Joel Kemei, Chairman, Tinderet Barngetuny Mountain Run



“Financing gap is a national skills and productivity issue and that Universities Fund exists to close that gap.”
 -Dr. Edwin Wanyonyi, CEO, Universities Fund (UF)



“KASNEB certifications are internationally recognized, therefore giving holders an upper hand.”
 -FCPA Prof. Nicholas K. Letting' PhD, EBS, HSC., CEO, KASNEB



“Universities need to start thinking differently changing the approach of academics in Kenya—from traditional approaches to modern approaches.”
 -Prof. Joachim Osur, Vice-Chancellor, Amref University



“A successful career was a combination of personal fulfillment and continuous growth.”
 -Dr. Dennis Maina, for Prof. Linus Gitonga, VC Karatina University



“Think about what keeps you awake every day and focus on emerging technology in acquiring new skills.”
 -Mr. David Omwoyo Omwoyo, MBS, CEO, Media Council of Kenya



“Policy promoted attainment of life-long learning employability and social equity in line with vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up agenda.”
 -Dr. Susan Wandera, Head of Education Department, Daystar University



“Placement pathways include: Universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs), and Specialized institutions such as Utalii College, KMTC and KSL.”
 -Prof. John Oluoch Director, Placement Co-ordination and Career Guidance KUCCPS



“Kirinyaga University Universities are currently integrating a smart campus model, incorporating AI-assisted teaching.”
 -Mr. Kamau Waruiru, Registrar Academics for Prof. Mary Ndung'u VC,

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service [KUCCPS] extends its sincere appreciation to all sponsors and exhibitors who supported the KUCCPS 1st National Career Conference and Exhibition 2026, whose partnership and active participation were instrumental to the success of this inaugural event. Through your sponsorships, exhibitions, and direct engagement with learners, parents, and educators, you played a vital role in expanding access to accurate career information and opening pathways to higher education, training, and skills development for Kenyan youth. KUCCPS is grateful for your investment of time, resources, and expertise, and looks forward to continued collaboration in empowering learners to make informed education and career choices in support of national development goals.

PICTORIALS



QUOTE



*It's not what you achieve it's what you overcome
That's what defines your career.*
-Carlton Fish



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