

Agenda

Webinar: Interest to Implementation – Bringing Virtual Exchange to Your Institution November 10, 2020

- 9:00am Opening Remarks
Manal Elattir, Regional Program Manager, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@StevensInit](#)
- 9:05am Panel Discussion
Rachid Akhmassi, Language Instruction Project Manager, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, [@RachidAkhmassi](#), [@UM6P_officiel](#)
Maha Ech-Chefaa, Country Leader, Enactus Morocco, [@ech_maha](#), [@enactusmorocco](#)
Manal Elattir, Regional Program Manager, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@StevensInit](#)
Bryan Gilroy, Advisor to the Provost, Zayed University, [@Zayed_U](#)
Luchen Li, Director of the Office of Global Education, Goucher College, [@gouchercollege](#)
- 9:35am Participant Q&A

Panelist Bios

Rachid Akhmassi is a Language Instruction Project Manager at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Ben Guerir, Morocco. He has taught English as a foreign language for over 18 years. In addition, he has taught in public high schools, and engineering and business preparatory classes at university level. Akhmassi has also delivered language courses for the American Cultural Association (ALC) in Marrakech. He holds a BA in linguistics from Cadi Ayyad University and a postgraduate certificate in applied linguistics and TESOL from Portsmouth University. As a curriculum development and evaluation specialist, he has co-designed courses with partner institutions engaging in virtual exchange, and has participated in training workshops for the same purpose. Akhmassi believes virtual exchange combines knowledge retention with cultural diversity through activities and projects that develop the skillsets of both students and facilitators.



Maha Ech-Chefaa is Country Leader at Enactus Morocco in Rabat. She is passionate about community work and how technology and entrepreneurship can bring positive social change. She has been involved in many initiatives since 2003. As former president of Junior Chamber International (JCI) of Rabat, she participated in various initiatives and projects in Morocco. Maha co-founded Moroccan CISE in 2012 and managed Google Business Group (GBG) Rabat, where she coordinated the local 2013 +Social Good Summit, gDayX Morocco 2014, and DevFest Rabat. She is currently an ambassador of Google WomenTechMakers and Womenwill communities. She is also an alumna of TechWomen, Ashoka ChangemakerXchange, and Enpact. Maha was also a finalist at the 2019 Booking.com Technology Playmaker Award for the “Community Impact” category. In 2014, Maha founded social venture Leeha, which aims to empower disadvantaged women in Morocco by providing business opportunities that use their various talents.

Manal Elattir is a Regional Program Manager based in Morocco. She has been an advocate for women and youth empowerment and leadership in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. She is the founder of ASILA, a social enterprise that empowers grassroots women entrepreneurs through business capacity building, mentoring, and networking. Manal co-founded the first mentoring network for women in Morocco and trained more than 1500 youth across MENA region on entrepreneurship and career guidance. She was also the director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Alumni Network. Manal has been recognized for her work and has been selected for some of the most prestigious programs including FORTUNE Most Powerful Women program, UNESCO Human Rights International Fellow, and the Women Leaders of the World by the Global Women Leadership Network. Manal has been the recipient of the Architects of the Future Award, the Australia Middle East Media Women’s Award, and the World of Difference Award by the International Alliance of Women.

Bryan Gilroy is Advisor to the Provost at Zayed University (ZU) in the UAE. Over the last 28 years, he has held senior management positions at several tertiary institutions. He joined Bilkent University, Ankara in 1990, Sabanci University, Istanbul in 1998, and Zayed University in 2002. He has worked in Egypt, Colombia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the UAE. Bryan has held positions that have combined both academic and administrative roles. While at ZU, he has been Director of the Academic Bridge Program, Assistant Provost Enrollment (including Accessibility and Student Recruitment), and Dubai Campus Director. As Advisor to the Provost, he has special responsibility for the PALs (Peer to Peer Leaders program), international students, and the Civic Social Responsibility Initiative (CSRI). He is also ZU’s liaison for Expo2020.

Dr. Luchen Li is Director of the Office of Global Education at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. He has 15 years of leadership in global education and over 20 years of experience in teaching, research, and services at Carnegie R1 public and private universities, as well as STEM and liberal arts institutions. Li has broad experience in conceptualizing, articulating visions, and advancing strategies into realities for comprehensive internationalization, including curriculum enrichment and international experiential learning. He has held leadership positions at professional organizations such as AIEA, NAFSA, OneShared.World, and Global E3, and served as President of the International Society of Steinbeck Scholars.

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The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence and career readiness skills for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange.