



Study Abroad Report

LE Mbume 216055224

Programme: Short learning programme

Division:	Division for Global Engagement
Dates:	05 -13 September
Location:	Cincinnati, Ohio State
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- 1. Introduction:** (Include one to two paragraphs with an introduction of the activity, context and relevant background information.)

From the 5th to the 13th of September 2025, I had the opportunity to participate in a short learning exchange program hosted by the university of Cincinnati in partnership with the university of Johannesburg. The program gave a professional and cultural exchange, purposely to deepen the understanding of educational practices within united states of America context while fostering global collaboration in teaching and learning in the education faculty.

The trip included interactive campus tours, public schools' visits, cultural events, and opportunities to engage with teachers, learners, and as well as university faculty. Through these experiences, we gained exposure to innovative educational methods, inclusive learning environments, and community engagements that reflects university of Cincinnati's commitment to holistic development and diversity in education

- 2. Summary of the activity:** (Please highlight the key accomplishments)

Throughout the 9 days exchange programme, we participated in different activities that had academic learning, school observations, and cultural immersion. The highlights included:

- A guided tour to the university of Cincinnati campus which gave insights of student life, academic departments and we were able to explore their library.
- The visit to John P. Parker school was insightful, we observed practices in PreK to grade 4 and they had a presentation for us on how they do things in the school. They also shared with us the project the involve in and their contribution to the community around them as



the school.

- c. The school of creative and performing arts (SCPA) visit, they shared how creative, and arts integration enhance learner engagement and critical thinking. They also shared on how the school is diverse and inclusive, it was a great experience.
- d. On cultural experiences which was attending the university of Cincinnati football game, dining at the Jungle Jim's international market, and the university of Cincinnati international farewell dinner at Moerlein House. These experiences provided all round perspective on academic, social, and cultural environment within U.S. education system

3. Impact on you as Participant:

This short exchange program had great personal and professional impact on me. Observing teaching and learning practices in diverse U.S. classrooms broaden my perspective on the curriculum implementation, inclusion, and differentiated styles of teaching to include each learner in the classroom. I gained valuable experience into how schools foster creativity, critical thinking, play in the classroom to foster learning and collaboration among learners, elements that aligns closely with my educational philosophy.

The interactions with university of Cincinnati faculty and students inspired me to apply more learner-centre reflective, and inclusive approaches in my teaching. Additionally, the cultural impact strengthened my intercultural communication skills and appreciation for diversity in education. These experiences reinforced my passion for creating global minded classrooms.

4. Picture/s of the activity:



Photo of me engaging directly with a learner during a classroom observation session at John P. Parker School in Cincinnati. The image shows active interaction inside a Grade-level classroom, highlighting participant involvement in teaching practices and inclusive learning environments during the school visit.



This photo is when we were attending the University of Cincinnati home football game at Nippert Stadium. The photo captures us seated among local UC students and supporters, experiencing American sports culture and campus spirit during the pre-game and live match activities.



Group photo of the University of Johannesburg delegation taken outside Symmes Elementary School after our classroom interactions and school engagement activities. The image includes all participants who attended the Cincinnati exchange program, marking the conclusion of the Symmes visit and collaborative session with staff.

5. Feedback on Host University

The university of Cincinnati provided an exceptional program that was both educational and well-coordinated. The staff were welcoming, organised, and eager to share their expertise. The program scheduled balanced academic visits, cultural experiences, and networking opportunities, ensuring that we gain both theoretical and practical insights. The facilities, hospitality, and engagement from faculty and students exceeded expectations, fostering a meaningful cross-cultural learning experience.



6. General Feedback

The exchange program was structured well and planned. The balance between school visits, university interactions, and cultural excursions created a rich learning environment. Each day gave new perspective that connected theory to practice. I personally appreciated the focus on inclusive education, creativity, and early learning development. The hospitality from both the university and people around made the experience memorable and inspiring, and I would do this ten times more, repeatedly.

7. Conclusion

The Cincinnati short learning exchange program was a crucial professional development experience that expanded my global perspective on education. Through direct observation, collaboration, and cultural engagement. I deepened my understanding of effective teaching strategies and inclusive classroom practices. This experience has motivated me to integrate innovative and reflective teaching approaches in my future classroom and to continue fostering international collaboration in education.