

# A New School Yields Hope

In July, a dream came true for Africa Leadership Initiative (ALI) Fellow **Fred Swaniker**, who unveiled the campus of his African Leadership Academy on the outskirts of Johannesburg. The Academy is a selective secondary boarding school that aims to develop the next generation of African leaders. It combines internationally recognized A-level academic training with a unique curriculum in leadership, entrepreneurship, and African studies. After years of planning, designing, building, and procuring funding, the Academy's campus includes 350-seat auditorium, state-of-the-art computer laboratories, sport fields, a multi-purpose dining facility, classrooms, a faculty common room, student dormitories, and a dean's home. "In only 14 months," said Swaniker at the Academy's rope-cutting ceremony in July, "young leaders from across the



Africa Leadership Initiative Fellow Fred Swaniker in Aspen in June

African continent will descend on Gauteng and begin a journey that will enable them to create lasting positive change in Africa."

Along this path, Swaniker says he's found abundant inspiration from the ALI program. "Even our curriculum has been influenced by my involvement in ALI," he says. "Our young leaders will

begin each quarter at the Academy (over the two years of the program) by going through a week-long seminar modeled after an Aspen ALI

seminar, and we have developed a series of 'Seminal Readings' modeled after the readings we do at Aspen that every Academy student will read prior to these seminars."

And as he looks forward to admitting the Academy's first class of 100 students in the school year beginning in September 2008, Swaniker says this school represents not only a lot of what he's learned and developed through his ALI Fellowship, but also the relationships he's formed through the ALI program. He calls ALI founder and Institute EVP **Peter Reiling** and ALI co-founder **Isaac Shongwe** as mentors, thought partners, and advisors, and he credits the Fellowship with helping him grow his vision and push the limits of the impact the school might make. "Joining the ALI program really helped me to ramp up the development of the Academy," he says. "The seminars helped me to reflect on the significance of the Academy on Africa's future, and got me to set my sights even higher for the impact the Academy could have on Africa."

Michael Brandis



African Leadership Academy governor and ALI Fellow **Futhi Mtoba**, Academy advisor and ALI co-founder **Isaac Shongwe**, Gauteng Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs **Paul Mashatile**, and ALI Fellow and Academy founder and CEO **Fred Swaniker** at the Academy's rope-cutting ceremony