



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 15-19, 2017

Covenant Tops Most Employable Graduates List



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, making a presentation to Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo and other Members of Management

Stutern, a Lagos-based startup and an online platform that carries out studies on employment in Nigeria and Nigerian universities, has in its 2016 edition of 'The Nigerian Graduate Report' publication ranked Covenant University Number One in the list of Nigerian universities (both private and public) with

the Most Employable Graduates.

According to the report by Stutern, Covenant University, with 90% employability rate, emerged first among institutions that have more employed graduates according to the employment status of their graduates. Only two private institutions made the top 10 list while others were Federal and State institutions.

The University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, with 84.62% employability rate, was second; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, with 83.33%, was third; while Federal University of Technology, Akure and the University of Ilorin with 80.00% and 77.78% were fourth and fifth respectively.

Ekiti State University (75.00%), University of Uyo (75.00%), Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye (75.00%), Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo (73.68%) and the University of Lagos (73.24%) complete the top 10 list of universities with most

employable graduates in that order.

Stutern, in its overview of the report, said key findings revealed that employment favors the most educated graduates; labor is cheap in Nigeria; the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme contributes to why the Education industry employs the most for first jobs in Nigeria; and More than 50% of graduates disagree that their graduate education prepared them with communication skills.

Also featured in the report are the employability status of Nigerian graduates, the most employable courses, return on

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Covenant, CEMP Reaffirm Commitment to collaboration on Project Management Courses

Covenant University and an international capacity development and consulting firm, Canada Executive Management and Professional Centre (CEMP), have reaffirmed their commitment to a collaboration between the two organisations, which will see the University running Professional Management Courses (PMC) and its students enjoying research grants from international agencies.

Both organisations had in February 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding that entails the University starting Project Management courses in partnership with the Project Management Institute (PMI) in the United States.

Speaking during his maiden visit to the University on Thursday, May 4, 2017, the President, CEMP, Mr. Musediq Bamidele Abdul, who expressed excitement at meeting the Management of Covenant University, said he was happy that his organization and the University had made very good progress in their relationship.

While commending the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero for his astute leadership role in the drive by the University to meet its target of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, Mr. Abdul said that Covenant University is the best in Nigeria today and competing favourably with first generation

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ICAN Seeks Covenant's Support for Zonal Conference

The Ota District of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has solicited the support of Covenant University for the district's bid to host ICAN's Zonal Conference scheduled for next year.

The Chairman, Ota District of ICAN, Pastor. Olufela Sokenu, made the request on Thursday, May 4, 2017, when he led members of his Executive Committee to pay a courtesy visit to the Management of Covenant University.

Speaking at the occasion, Pastor Olufela, who is the 5th Chairman of Ota District of ICAN, said his executive committee was at the Canaan Land campus of Covenant University to thank the University for the assistance so far offered to the District, and to seek a fresh support in the District's bid to host its zonal conference billed for February 2018.

Covenant University, he said, has been chosen as the main venue for the conference and the District needs the CU Management to help facilitate the presence of the Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Regents, Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, as Speaker at the forthcoming conference. The Vice-Chancellor, faculty, staff and students are also expected to

grace the conference, he added.

Pastor Sokenu acknowledged the participation of students of Covenant University in ICAN's professional exams and urged the University Management to continue to encourage the students to participate. "About two diets ago, Covenant University students took first, second and third positions," he enthused.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, said that it was a good thing that the University have collaborations with professional bodies, such as ICAN, to drive the University's Vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022.

On the zonal conference, the Vice-Chancellor said that it shall be a great success and the University will give it all the necessary support.



Chairman, ICAN, Ota District, Pastor Olufela Sokenu, presenting an award plaque to Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero

Encomiums as Covenant Sends Forth Carnegie Fellow

The Management and faculty of Covenant University were lavish in their praises for Dr. Abiodun Ilumoka as the Programme Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), Virginia, the United States, on Friday, May 5, 2017, rounded off her visit to the University. The Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering was for two-and-a-half weeks at Covenant University under the auspices of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Programme.

Highlighting Dr. Ilumoka's undertakings during the visit, the Dean, College of Engineering, Covenant University, Professor Christian Bolu, said that she organized training for graduate students, reviewed the University's curriculum in rural infrastructure, toured villages around the University community and discussed what to do with the University's Engineering curriculum.

Dr. Ilumoka, according to Professor Bolu, also initiated a plan for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of the District of Columbia and promised to facilitate the visit of other scholars in the Diaspora to Covenant University. "It's been a very wonderful time for us; we are grateful that we had her visiting," he added.

Also, the Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, presenting some CU souvenirs to the departing Carnegie Scholar, Dr. Abiodun Ilumoka

and his counterpart at the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Dr. Victor Matthews, were unanimous in their appreciation of the Carnegie Fellow. They appreciated God for what He has done through her, and expressed hope that the benefits of her visit would begin to manifest in no distant future.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, who thanked Dr. Ilumoka for the gifts she donated to the University, said that young Engineers at the institution will keep personal contact with her for mentorship.

While expressing the University's gratitude to the Carnegie Fellow for how impactful her visit had been, the Vice-Chancellor said that the University will find another time to bring her back for the delivery of a Public Lecture so that people can learn from her experience.

Dr. Ilumoka, in her response, said that

she was very grateful for the opportunity to visit Covenant University, which she described as a wonderful campus with beautiful infrastructure and wonderful group of students.

She lauded the University for having quality and excellent programmes in Engineering, and implored the Nigerian government to initiate an industrial revolution making use of the young talents that abound in tertiary institutions all over the country.

The NSF Programme Director, who was co-founder of the Association of Professional Women Engineers, said that she had taken advantage of the Carnegie Fellowship to see how she can contribute her quota, tackling some of the challenges at Covenant University.

She thanked the University for offering her great hospitality, exposure to spiritual discipline and impactful interactions. "I'd love to come back and be part of the Vision of making this University one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022," she enthused. ■

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investment, and starting and current salary of recent graduates among others.

Stutern stated that its ultimate aim with the report is to empower all stakeholders to better understand the state of youth employment in the Nigerian economy and helping companies to recruit better.

In the Foreword of the report written by a former Minister of Education, Dr. (Mrs.) Oby Ezekwesili, she expressed her delight at the work of Stutern which has produced 'The Nigerian Graduate Report 2016'. The report, she said, unveils a diversity of the variables at play in the youth employment and unemployment issues that Nigeria must address.

"As the report shows, there are underlying issues that seldom receive thoughtful response either by government, the education policy makers, academic institutions, the business sector and owners, families and young people who are the primary target of the Report. All these factors must now be further interrogated and the right menu of solutions found over time," Dr. Ezekwesili stated.

The report, which ranked Covenant University Number One University with Most Employable Graduates is yet again a validation of the high quality training on offer at the institution. ■

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universities. "With the collaboration we are having now, it's another first for Covenant University," he added.

CEMP's plan, he revealed, was for Master's Degree students of Covenant University to submit their theses and apply to benefit from research grants that were available this year, but it was rather late. He, however, expressed hope that, next year, students of the University will be the first in West Africa to benefit from such grants.

The Dean, College of Engineering, Professor Christian Bolu, in his comments,

recalled that the process of getting Covenant University students to sit for exams in PMC was incorporated long time ago. He said that it was something worth doing as students of the University will benefit a lot from having such certificates.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said the University desires that, on graduation, students are equipped with different certifications. Arrangement, he added, would be put in place to make sure that the MoU signed with CEMP kicks off in the next academic session. ■



Covenant University Management with Officials of Canada Executive Management and Professional Centre (CEMP)