



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University February 21-28, 2019

## 2019 Edustart Summit: Facilitators Agree Teachers Must Adapt to Changes in Technology

Facilitators at the recently held 2019 edition of the Covenant University Edustart Summit, with the theme, 'The Future Teacher', have unanimously agreed in their submissions that the teacher of the future must be technology-savvy, innovative, thoughtful and collaborative among others.

The Edustart Summit, an initiative of a faculty in Covenant, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi, helps stakeholders and entrepreneurs to understand the changes in technology and how to take advantage of them in the education sector.

The Vice-Chancellor of Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero, opened the stream of presentations at the summit, stating that the best teachers of the future would be those who could successfully impart skills

for critical thinking towards lifelong learning, adding that they would be those adept at teaching how and not what to learn.

While enumerating the qualities of the teacher of the future, he stated that the future teacher was Binar48, the first-ever robot to complete a college course and co-taught two sessions of an introduction to ethics philosophy course - which covers ethical reasoning, war theory and the use of artificial intelligence in society. The teacher of the future, he continued, was E-teacher (a digital native); Paperless, with the ubiquity of technology adoption in education is gradually obviating the need for papers; and EdTech compliant (educational technology apps and tools).

Professor Atayero also opined



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, making his presentation on the topic "The Teacher of the Future" at Edusrat 2.0

that the teacher of the future was Formative (focus on formative assessments feedback), employed Feedback, encouraged Applied Learning (tying teaching concept to something digital that the student can relate to), and was E-student (an eager student with

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## Covenant Urges Fresh Graduate Students to Leverage on Varsity's Rising Profile

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Covenant, Professor Akan Williams, has charged new students of the University's School of Postgraduate Studies (SPS) to take advantage of the opportunity of their sojourn in God's own University by imbibing her values, as a pathway to the fulfillment of their dreams.

Professor Williams gave the charge on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at the Orientation Ceremony organised for



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Akan Williams, making his presentation

fresh students of the SPS.

While making a presentation with the topic, 'Vision, Mission and Mandate of Covenant University', the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said that the meteoric rise that Covenant has had within 16 years of her existence had confirmed that God was involved in the establishment and operation of the University. "For instance, how do you explain a situation whereby a University established only 2002 is competing favourably on all fronts with Nigerian universities established many decades back? It can only be God at work," he explained.

He urged the students to tie their visions to that of Covenant, which is: To be a leading world-class Christian Mission University committed to raising a new generation of leaders in all fields of Human endeavours. Also, he urged them to add value to whatever they

were doing and ensured that they finish their programmes on record time and in flying colours.

In his exhortation to the graduate students, the Ag. Registrar, Dr. Lanre Amodu, who addressed them on the imperative of adhering to the University's Core Values, said that the core values were the ideals that made Covenant to be different from other universities. "Covenant University is a unique product and the core values define our character," he affirmed.

Dr. Amodu listed the core values as Sacrifice, Diligence, Responsibility, Capacity Building, Possibility Mentality, Integrity and Spirituality. He noted that Spirituality is the most important core value of Covenant; it entailed instilling the fear of God into the lives of men and women of the University. "As students, it is expected of you to be godly in all your dealings," the Registrar noted.

In another presentation titled, 'Ethical Issues in Postgraduate Studies', the

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## Covenant Urges Fresh Graduate Students to Leverage on Varsity's Rising Profile *Contd. from Pg 1*

Director, African Leadership Development Centre, Professor Shalom Chinedu, said it was very important that the graduate students were exposed to ethics as they would be involved in research and publications. While stating that Coursework, Research and Publication were the three things expected of the students `to earn their degrees, the University's expectation, according to him, was that they finish

their programmes within the specified time frame.

Also speaking about the University's expectations, the Dean, SPS, Professor Humphrey Adebayo, impressed it on the students that they were regarded as bonafide students only when they fulfilled registration procedures. He said that attendance was taken very seriously, the students must be core values-compliant and they must be able to graduate in

record time.

Other members of Covenant Management at the orientation exercise were the Dean College of Engineering, Professor David Omole, and Dean, College of Science of Technology, Professor Kolawole Ajanaku. Also there were the Sub-Dean, SPS, Professor Obinna Mwinyi, and a member of the Board of the SPS, Professor Solomon Oranusi. ■

## 2019 Edustart Summit: Facilitators Agree Teachers Must Adapt to Changes in Technology *Contd. from Pg 1*

insatiable appetite for knowledge).

The Vice-Chancellor, who acknowledged that the education of the future was a nebulous terrain that nobody could say with 100% certainty what its future would be, said that Covenant was, however, mindful of her place in shaping the education of the future. In his words, "The educational institution of the future has no walls, the future teacher is a global citizen, and he must be able to reach different people of different nationalities".

In her presentation titled, 'How Teaching Should be Done', the Director, TEP Centre, Modupe Adefeso Olateju, posited that a teacher could not be said to have taught if the learner had not learnt. According to her, the factors to consider for effective teaching and learning were the physical environment, the curriculum and its assessment, quality assurance and support systems. The factors, she noted, also included teacher supply, training and development, accountability mechanisms and processes, links and partnerships with parents and community, school leadership, internal organisation and culture, and the well-being, attendance and motivation of all pupils.

Olateju said that teaching should be done in settings that are serene, safe and healthy, and have appropriate facilities and tools to foster active learning. The teacher, she emphasised, should be the facilitator of the learning process and not the custodian of knowledge; the teacher must be knowledgeable and passionate about instructional

content and know and understand the learner.

She explained further that, "School leaders must instill passion in teachers and motivate teachers to engage learners. A teacher should strengthen learners' self-belief and create mentally stimulating educational experiences. Communities should be considered as the ecosystem within which teaching and learning is situated, and schools must maintain requisite or stipulated levels of quality in the school system.

The future of learning, according to the Cofounder of Webcoupers and Haptics, Mr. Peter Ajegbomogun, was Mobile, with the key drivers of the future of learning being 21st century skills in demand, personalised remote learning aided by technology, online peer to peer and facilitated group learning, and practical and applied learning. He highlighted the 21st century skills needed in today's ever-changing job market as Learning Skills - critical thinking, creativity; Collaboration and communication; Literacy Skills - information, media and technology; and Life Skills - flexibility, leadership, initiative and social.

On his view of the teacher of the future, Mr. Ajegbomogun averred that the future teacher "Is up to trend with technology changes and uses it for education, knows about the skills in demand in the job market and adapts educational, content to fit the market demands, fosters collaboration amongst students, and has digital skills and is able to use these skills to teach his/her students".

While making his presentation on the topic, "Technology Tools for the Future Teacher', the Co-founder, Softcom and Npower project, Mr. Yomi Adedeji, argued that since today's student was hugely influenced by the social media, highly inquisitive and collaborative, impatient and easily disengaged, and his/her thinking replaced with Google, the teacher of the future must be e-ready.

The future teacher, he stated, would be expected to make use of tools such as Data, which entailed machine learning, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and pattern recognition. He said that other tools included Learning Management (mobility and blended learning), and Tailored Platforms (assessment and segmentation). Tools of the future, he added, must match skills to opportunities.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the initiator of the summit, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi, asserted that in order for a nation to achieve sustainability, there must be a National Plan, Manpower Plan and Education Plan. He stated that the future of any country depended a lot on teachers as the quality of governance demonstrated by the leaders of a nation reflected the quality of teaching accessible to the leaders.

Dr. Oluwatobi, who is Deputy Director, Commercialisation, Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID), defined a true teacher as an inspiration, who found and built on ideologies, was a good student, and needed to be a learner of his/her student as much as the student needed to learn.

Participants at the Edustart Summit included panelists, tech companies enabling education, students, investors, developers and designers, educators and tech enthusiasts. ■