



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University January 14-18, 2019

## Nuggets for Budding Female Engineers on Successful Engineering Career as APWEN Inaugurates Ota Branch

History was made on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, when the Association of Professional Women Engineers in Nigeria (APWEN) inaugurated its Ota Branch in Ogun State, and inducted a faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant, Engr. Dr. (Mrs) Ayobami Busari as the pioneer Chairman of the branch.

Aside the inauguration and the investiture, the event, which had in attendance the Dean, College of Engineering, Covenant, Professor David Omole, the APWEN President, Engr. (Mrs) Felicia Nnena

Agubata, and female students from all the Departments in the College of Engineering amongst others, also featured the delivery of a lecture titled, 'Future for Women in Engineering Practice'.

The Guest Speaker, Engr. Dr. (Mrs) Patricia Opene-Odili, said that engineering as a profession was not for the lily-livered, but for those who were daring, who could innovate and change the world for the better. According to her, people had in the past considered engineering as a male-dominated profession, but women, today, were making the



Engr (Mrs) Patricia Opene-Odili, delivering the Keynote Address at the launching of APWEN, Ota Chapter

difference in engineering.

Diversity and inclusion, she averred, were helping women to prove their mettle in engineering, however, they must come together

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## Expert Enlightens Chemistry Students on Workplace Readiness

An expert in Quality Operations Control from May and Baker Nigeria Plc, Mr. Sunday Anthony Longe, has described Workplace Readiness as understanding the relationship between getting a job, sustaining it and advancing



Mr Sunday A. Longe, making his presentation during the Department of Chemistry's Town and Gown Seminar

in that career.

He made this assertion during a recent Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Chemistry, Covenant, on Tuesday, January 23, 2019, when he spoke on the topic, 'Workplace Readiness: The Real Deal'.

Advising the students at the seminar, Mr. Longe stated that, "The efforts you put into getting a degree is as important as those required in getting a job, sustaining the job and growing on the job, which is referred to as career advancement".

The Guest Speaker encouraged the students to take seriously the acquisition of

proficiencies as a tool for career advancement on graduation. According to him, "70% of human resource officials cited deficiencies among graduates in applied skills, such as professionalism and work ethic, including punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management".

Workplace readiness, according to him, meant different things to different employers of labour, adding that serious employers focused on results, and to get these results required vision, diligence, character.

Mr. Longe also pointed out the need for employees to have a clear understanding of their organisation's vision/goal as

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## Expert Enlightens Chemistry Students on Workplace Readiness *Contd. from Pg 1*

employees were paid to drive the vision of the employer by doing their job efficiently and effectively, and anything in-between was unacceptable.

Advising the students on the need to have a personal vision and goal for their lives, he said that, "For you to fit into an organisation's growth ladder, you must have aligned your vision with those of the

organisation one way or the other. Where the organisation's vision does not match yours, you might want to re-think your ability to fit in there".

Earlier in his remarks, the Head, Department of Chemistry, Professor Olayinka Ajani, appreciated the speaker for honouring the invitation for the seminar. He encouraged the students and members of

faculty and staff of the Department to be actively involved during the lecture as learning was a continuous phenomenon.

Professor Ajani also appreciated the Management of the University for the wonderful Town and Gown platform, which has helped to bring the industry closer to the students, thereby empowering them for workplace readiness.

## Covenant Faculty Suggests Investment in Education to curb Population Explosion *Contd. from Pg 1*

with the menfolk to propagate the profession. "Because women have passion for details, they excel in engineering," she asserted.

While speaking on what female engineers should do to conquer perceived discrimination and stay long in the engineering profession, Engr. Opene-Odili, who was the immediate past President of APWEN, said female engineers could choose a mentor but not necessarily a woman; they should try to understand the nuances of the profession as it would take focus and dedication for them to get to their desired height; and as engineers they must learn to multi-task.

Also, the Guest Speaker urged female engineers to be diligent by studying to show themselves approved. While stating that there was a great future for women in engineering, Engr. Opene-Odili posited that big corporations were looking to put women on top, particularly those able to distinguish themselves.

She disclosed that surveys in 2017 had indicated that 11% of the engineering workforce were women as against 9% in 2015. The margin, she reckoned, may

be small but it was the effect of diversity and inclusion. "Let us not work to meet the standard, let us work to beat the standard," Engr. Opene-Odili charged.

Following the inauguration of the Ota Branch and investiture of Engr. Dr. (Mrs) Ayobami Busari as Chairman, the APWEN President, Engr. (Mrs) Felicia Nnena Agubata, congratulated Covenant for producing the first Chairman of the branch. APWEN, she stated, was committed to the encouragement of student-members and the advancement of Nigeria.

The Ota Branch Chairman, Engr. Busari, had in her acceptance speech said that the dream of having a branch of APWEN in Ota, which started four years ago, was borne out of the passion of having a hub for female engineers in Covenant and its environs, to participate in the vision and mission of the Association. Ota chapter, she said, was unique because it was situated in the second industrialised zone in Nigeria.

While highlighting the goals of the APWEN, Ota Branch Executive Committee, Engr. Busari said that one of the focus

of the executive committee was to encourage the girl-child to stay in the sciences with the focus of selecting engineering as a course of study. "Our goal as a chapter is to key into the mission of this noble Association, which is to encourage the girl-child to stay in engineering by leveraging on other numerous programmes of the national body," she said.

The Ota Branch Chairman expressed her appreciation to the National Executive members of APWEN, led by the President, Engr. Agubata, for making the establishment of Ota Branch a reality. She also appreciated the Covenant Management, the Nigerian Society of Engineers and other related professional bodies.

In his remarks at the occasion, the Dean, College of Engineering, Professor David Omole, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero, said the issue of diversity and inclusion was always given prime consideration by the current administration in the University. While emphasizing that the administration was driving gender responsiveness assiduously, Professor Omole congratulated APWEN for the successful inauguration of its branch in Ota. ■