

REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP IN THE 3RD EDITION OF LIFE-AFTER SCHOOL CAREER DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES (LASCDSS3)

1.0 Introduction:

It is no longer news that many graduates of Nigeria tertiary institutions are either not ready for employment, or not employable. This menace is trending and must be curbed. **Life-After School Career Development Seminar Series (LASCDSS)** is a one-day event organized by Dr. Ikechukwu Innocent UMEH of the Department of Computer Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, in conjunction with PA-CENT Technologies Limited to expose final year students of tertiary institutions around us on how to develop their career, and prepare them for life after school. This one day seminar is important because, recent experiences show that most fresh graduates of Nigerian higher institutions (universities and polytechnics) leave school without focus, or being prepared for the Nigerian or diaspora labour market.

2.0 The Motivation of the Initiative

My encounter with many fresh graduates from some Nigerian universities gave me the privilege to know and understand a trending adage and phenomenon amongst them, which is the **“Education is a scam”** mentality. The motivation to curb this trend bore my initiative to begin a student career development programme which does not exist schools' academic curricula. After attending, on invitation, the Graduation /Send-off party, organized by the 2019 set of the department of computer science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka fresh graduates, in October 2019, my vision became clear. Unlike the usual university classroom atmosphere, the occasion availed the fresh graduate an opportunity to interact freely with me about what happens after graduation and NYSC. In the course of our interaction, a number of them expressed their unpreparedness for their assumed “harsh” life after school in the labour market. I was shocked by this discovery, and immediately, the thought of how to sensitise, and prepare the Nigerian student in their final years on how to face the challenges of labour market life after school was born.

3.0 The Maiden Edition

The maiden edition of the **Life-After School Seminar Series** was held on Thursday, 13th May 2021, at the Liberation hall, formerly known as the Multipurpose Hall, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. The occasion witnessed the presence of experts in business start-up, self-made entrepreneurs, and motivational speakers from Nigeria and diaspora in a hybrid of physical and virtual presentations. It was a huge success with 98 participants in attendance. Soon after the event in that same year, many of the participants began to share very interesting testimonies, stating their experiences, and how the knowledge and the exposure gained from the seminar has been of immense help to them after their exit from the four walls of the university.

4.0 The Second Edition

The second edition of the series was held on the 4th of December, 2022 at CHISCO Hall, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. Similarly, the event featured presentations from both local and foreign speakers. The Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University and some other dignitaries graced the

occasion which had over 200 participants in attendance. The second edition was a huge success, and some of the participants are already sharing their testimonies.

5.0 Invitation to Participate in The 3rd Edition

I most humbly, and specially invite you to participate and partner in the forthcoming third edition of the “**Life-After School Seminar Series**” has been scheduled to hold as follows;

Date: 20th April, 2023

Time: 10am Prompt

Venue: ASUU Multipurpose Hall, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

The organizers of this event, and the participants solicit for your esteemed presence during this event. We know that sharing some moments of your vast experienced and advice will go a long way to motivate these young ones, and put them in the right direction towards building a good career for the betterment of the future of our society.

6.0 Programmes for the event:

Who can participate: Final year students of Science discipline in Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka and Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University.

7.0 Participation and Fee

Participation in the seminar is ***totally Cost free*** for interested participants (final year students) stated in 6.0 above.

Dr. Ikechukwu I. Umeh

Convener