**Global Impact Scholarship: Application**

**The deadline to submit your application materials is Sunday 14 June 2020 at 11:59PM PST.**

This year we will select 5 scholarship recipients, with the results being announced by the end of June.

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**Scholarship Application Instructions**

**Step One**: please complete the two essay questions below

**Step Two**: please submit the following materials to your [online application](https://jobs.lever.co/palantir/a3708da1-5607-4c2b-a787-9ce744c343de):

* the completed essay questions (using the free text boxes on the application form)
* a copy of your resume
* a copy of your transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)

All of the above materials must be submitted in order for your application to be considered complete.

**Question 1**

**Word limit: 200-400 words**

What project have you worked on or participated in that you felt had a significant impact? What was your contribution to this project? This can be a job, personal project, event, or anything else.

For those millions of students who come from under-served and under-represented communities, a voice to speak on their behalf and a person to stand by their side and help fight for their right to quality education is something rare this day and age.

I come from an under-represented rural community in South-Eastern, Nigeria. Growing up, I experienced firsthand the ills of an inefficient educational system. The situation was so bad that I was only able to use a computer for the first time after graduation from Secondary school.

In the wake of the unfortunate experience I had as a student, I vowed that I would work on eradicating technological illiteracy in rural communities and in fighting for quality education. In 2014, I began my volunteer service with Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, taking digital skills to underserved communities. My story was recently published on the twitter account of the organization at https://twitter.com/ParadigmHQ/status/1263095131256823808

In November 2019, while in my Sophomore year at Ashesi University, I took a giant step in fulfilling my vow. I founded the Code4All Initiative with five other international students. The Code4All Initiative is the first of its kind in the whole of Berekuso, Eastern Region, Ghana, to introduce basic computer literacy skills as well as coding to students from rural communities. The Initiative is currently training 34 students from the Twafoman Secondary Technical School on ICT and coding skills. Twice a week, these students are transported to Ashesi University to make use of the university’s ultra-modern ICT Labs since they lack such facilities in their high school. The project has received funding from two international organisations - The Ford Foundation and Bard College Centre for Civic Engagement.

Since its inception, the Code4All Initiative has helped these 34 students acquire skills in technology and had instilled in most of them the desire to pursue a career in STEM-related fields. Even more heartwarming is the fact that many young girls have been admitted into the program to eliminate gender bias and to encourage more young girls to pursue a career in technology. Thus, some of these students have made a paradigm shift towards technology. As a result of its success, plans are underway to expand to other regions in Ghana by January 2021 and hopefully, to other parts of Africa in the near future.

**Question 2**

**Word limit: 200-400 words**

Tell us about an opportunity that you took advantage of. How did you make the most of it?

It was a bright sunny day in September 2014. I was with my mother and siblings in our humble home. The atmosphere was very hot and unfortunately, we had no electricity nor a fan. Near the window was a battery-powered radio which was playing music from a radio station. A few moments later, there was an announcement: Someone from a non-governmental organisation called Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) was on air to deliver an essential message to the youths. That day signalled the dawn of a life-changing opportunity that will take me higher towards a university education in Computer Science.

The man whose name I later came to know was Mr Ihueze Nwobilor, the Programs Manager. He had mentioned that PIN would be offering a seven-week intensive training on Life skills, ICT and Entrepreneurship for the first admitted 100 youths. As earlier noted, even though I had graduated from high school, I had not used a computer before. That was the opportunity I had waited for all these years! Quickly, I mounted on my old bicycle and began the close to 2 hours cycling to the town to pick up the free registration form.

That opportunity changed my life forever. It was not easy attending the training for seven weeks. The distance was very far, the road was in a terrible state, and it was a disaster when it rains. Nonetheless, I would cycle each day to and from the centre for over 3 hours, most times, on an empty stomach and sweating like a pig. But it was worth the effort. The training I received made me decide that I wanted a career in technology. Shortly after I graduated from PIN in 2014, I served as a volunteer taking the same knowledge I had acquired to rural communities. In 2017, I was accepted into the Google Developers Group Aba, where I began learning front-end programming. In August 2018, I was admitted into Ashesi University Ghana, to read Computer Science on a scholarship.

From a local community boy with no hope of a university education in 2014 to an undergraduate of Computer Science at one of Africa’s leading universities, my story has been one that has laid bare the power of opportunities and resilience. That one opportunity I seized sometime in September 2014 opened the door to others which have, in turn, led me to where I am today.