

REPORT OF DIVERSITY IN SCIENCE GRANT 2024 AWARDED TO GKO CAREER IN STEM AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (SUBMITTED BY PROF GANIYAT K. OLOYEDE)

Theme of project is: Inspiring and Creating Opportunities in STEMM for Physically Challenged Students and their tutors



The event started on the 31st August, 2024 and ended on the 2nd September, 2024. It was an outreach event to inspire and support physically challenged students and their tutors as well as other participants.

Our major goal was to improve access to educational, training and professional development opportunities for physically challenged students and their tutors in our community. To catch them young by creating awareness and boost mentoring. Our engagement/workshop changed the orientation and conversation about science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM). This engagement/development project served as a means of invigorating students and even practitioners so that there can be a renewed interest in STEMM. With our engagement, we realized that science based disciplines was made attractive to the physically challenged students to study and their tutors too were further encouraged. Enlightenment lectures and entrepreneurship/science skills were conducted. There was practical demonstration by visiting industries, for on the sight inclusion on hands on experiments. This also helped us in identifying and analysing talent practices among the participants. Our engagement/workshop therefore involved a broad range of activities that fitted into creativity, diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR) initiatives.

Supporting Organisations: Freewill Foundation, American Chemical Society University of Ibadan Student Chapter, National Horticultural Research Institute, Federal Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development Ibadan Nigeria and SCC Concept Ltd, Akobo Nigeria. Our activity involved School outreaches and on the final day, there was interactive session and fiesta

There was formal announcement of the engagement/workshop on TV and social media and preparation and meetings towards the realization of the engagement/workshop. Invitation of postgraduate students and dissemination through Student Chemical Society of the University. We will also sought the assistance of Nigeria Union of Teachers/Nigerian Association of Physically Challenged People to disseminate the information to secondary school students who are the main target of the event.

Audience/Participants: For the different schools visited we had a total of 1100 participants

Evaluation/People served

The grant award and its outcomes were adequately publicized especially on social media. We carried out survey that gave us knowledge of the diverse education and economic background of all participants especially the students. We had 1100 participants... Feedback from social media also helped us in determining the success of the event.

Budget

Detailed records of account for the use of grant funds were appropriately accounted for and we appreciate Biochemical Society for the grant. It really helped us.

Impact/Conclusion/ and Future plans



According to our survey, STEMM courses are perceived by many especially students as being abstract in nature, not easy to understand. Our activities were able to bring out the beauty of STEMM courses and show to the physically challenged participants that Science is not only a lively and practicable subject, it is a marketable discipline where practitioners can earn a living. It is also very relevant in the 21st century. Many things in existence are product of science. This programme gave us the opportunity to get to know more students especially the physically challenged and economically disadvantaged students within the community. We took genuine interest in

economically disadvantaged students and they were empowered.

Feedback from social media also helped us in determining the success of the event. Meeting held after the programmes afforded us the opportunity to share knowledge and promote creativity, diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR) initiatives within our student group.

We also created awareness to government at the local and national level on ways of encouraging the physically challenged in furtherance of their education especially in STEMM, and motivate science teachers to effectively teach the subject

We achieved our aim and objectives which include but not limited to serving as an avenue for information dissemination on opportunities in STEMM as a discipline in the 21st century. Create awareness on gender inclusiveness in STEMM. Also, create awareness on the activities of Biochemical Society as the poised to development of science and encouraging diversity in science.