

**THE AWARD OF POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
At the 22nd Annual Award of Postgraduate Scholarship of the
S.O. Awokoya Foundation for Science Education
March 21st 2017- Muson Center
BY- DR. FOLA AWOKOYA**

Mr. Chairman, Sir Steve Omojafor

Our Special Guest of Honour, Bashorun J.K. Randle

Our Guest Speaker Professor Oladele Osibanjo

**Our distinguished Honourees Chief Ajibola Ogunshola
And Lady Maiden Alex-Ibru**

Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to present the 2017

**Awardees of the Stephen Oluwole Awokoya Foundation For
Science Education Postgraduate Scholarship.**

2.

**When the Awokoya Foundation was started in 1995, some
22years ago, it was formed with the primary objective of
promoting science and science education in institutions of
higher learning in Nigeria.**

**In furtherance of this primary objective, the Foundation has
made yearly awards of postgraduate scholarship for studies in
the area of science and science education.**

Our approach to the awarding of postgraduate scholarships is to reward excellence. The scholarship is awarded to the best students nominated from all the universities participating.

SLIDE 1

In the area of scholarship award, the Foundation has made a total of ninety eight (98) postgraduate scholarship awards to date.

SLIDE 2

The course programs that the postgraduate scholarship award have been used for have included, for the masters course;

**Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Construction Engineering Technology
Human Nutrition
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Pharmacology
Physics
Physiology
Production Engineering
Public Health
Science Education
and Special Education**

For the Ph.D. program, the courses have included

**Cardiovascular Medicine
Chemical Pathology
Clinical Pharmacy
Dental Surgery
Maths Education
Mechanical Engineering
Medicine
Paediatric Medicine
Pharmaceutics
Preventive Dentistry
and
Science Education**

SLIDE 3

The beneficiaries of these awards have come from twenty two (22) different universities, with the Candidates from the University of Lagos receiving twenty six (26) awards ,

The University of Nigeria, Nsukka receiving Twelve (12) awards , while University of Ibadan had Eleven (11) awards,

Nnamdi Azikwe University with Seven awards,

Obafemi Awolowo University with six (6) awards and

Covenant University with five (5) awards.

University of Benin has had four (4) awards.

Ladoke Akintola University, University of Ilorin and Bells University Of Technology have received three (3) awards each.

While Ahmadu Bello University, Lagos State University, Redeemers University, University Of Agriculture- Abeokuta and University of Port-Harcourt have all received two(2) awards each.

The rest of the universities in the list have all received one (1) award each. These include Bowen University, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Ado Bayero University, Federal University Of Technology, Minna, Olabisi Onabanjo University , University Of Maiduguri and Ajayi Crowther University.

Ajayi Crowther University is just receiving its first award this year and it is for a nominee to study for a Masters program in computer science.

SLIDE 4

The process for the award of the scholarship starts with the nomination of candidates by the deans of the various faculties or heads of departments related to science or science education at the tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The nominees are expected to be the best graduating students from the various tertiary institutions.

The scholarship awardees are chosen based on excellence in educational performance, stated long-term objectives and an interview of the shortlisted candidates by the Board of Trustees.

It is important to note that the scholarship is not based on need but on excellence in educational performance.

In order to qualify for this award, you have to be very good in your educational performance both in your university and in comparison to other students in other universities.

The Awokoya Foundation scholarship is a reward for excellence and it is aimed at encouraging excellence in educational performance.

It is an award for the best of the best.

SLIDE 5

This year, we had 120 nominations from 31 universities.

The distribution of the nominations is shown on this slide, starting with 14 nominations from the University Of Lagos.

Eleven from the Nnamdi Azikwe, Federal Uni. Of Tech. Minna with 8 nominations

Obafemi Awolowo University with 8 nominations

Bowen University and University of Ilorin with 7 nominations

Federal University Lokoja, University of Benin and University of Nigeria, Nsukka with 6 nominations each

Crawford University, Federal University Of Petroleum Resources. Effurun and Federal University, Otuoke with 5 nominations each

Ajayi Crowther University with 4 nominations

Ekiti State University, Federal University Lafia and Gombe State University with 3 nominations each

Ahmadu Bello University, Federal University of Tech. Akure, Modibo Adama University of Tech, Yola and University of Ibadan with 2 nominations each.

The rest of the universities had one (1) nomination each including

Ambrose Alli University

Babcock University

Bells University of Technology

Caleb University

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University

Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo, Ebonyi

Federal University Kashere, Gombe

Kogi State University

Lagos State University

University of Jos

and

University of Uyo

For the University of Lagos with had the highest number of nominations with 14 nominations, unfortunately none of the nominations were for science or science related disciplines. So none of the nominations received were eligible for consideration. We understand that there were some communication challenges, this time around.

SLIDE 6

Out of the 120 nominations, there were

- 78 First Class Graduates or graduates with Distinctions**
- 28 Second Class Upper Honours Graduates**
- 14 Not Classified. This includes courses like Medicine and current students**

About 10 out of the 120 nominations arrived late and were not considered.

SLIDE 7

The postgraduate scholarship award covers tuition and Board.

The value is now Three Hundred Thousand Naira (N=300,000) per student per annum. This is a fifty percent increase from its previous value.

It is renewable each year, for a maximum of three years, provided the awardee maintains a good record of academic performance as attested to by the authorities of the university he or she attends.

It is tenable in any Nigerian university.

For nominees that have admission into foreign universities, we convert the scholarship into a travel grant.

SLIDE 8

This year we have six (6) postgraduate scholarship awardees chosen from the nominations received.

SLIDE 9

The first awardee for the Postgraduate Scholarship of the Stephen Oluwole Awokoya Foundation for Science Education for the year 2017 is Mr. Olajide Hezekiah Bamidele.

Mr. Bamidele, please come up to the rostrum.

Mr. Bamidele attended the Omolayo International School in Abeokuta, followed by the Victorroti Private Secondary School also in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

He had 9 distinctions in his Senior School Certificate exams including 4 A1's and later went to study Chemical Engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University at Ile-Ife, where he graduated with a First Class honours degree, with a cumulative Grade point average of 4.77. He was the best graduating student from the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University in the 2016 academic year.

Mr. Bamidele intends to pursue a Masters course in Chemical Engineering.

SLIDE 10

The second awardee is Miss Eziolu Stella Ilozuma.

Miss Ilozuma, please come up to the rostrum.

Miss Ilozuma attended the St. Mary's Bigard Primary School in Enugu for her primary schooling followed by the Federal Government Girls College in Onitsha for her secondary schooling.

She got 7 distinctions including 5 A1s in the nine courses she took in her senior school certificate exams.

She later attended Nnamdi Azikwe University in Awka , where she studied Civil Engineering and graduated with a First Class Honours degree, with a cumulative grade point average of 4.611. She was the best graduating student in Civil Engineering in the year 2016.

Miss Ilozuma intends to pursue a Masters degree in Civil Engineering.

SLIDE 11

The third awardee is Mr. Ikenna Ozofor.

Mr. Ozofor, please come up to the rostrum.

Mr. Ozofor went to Dennis Memorial Grammar School at Onitsha for his secondary schooling, where he got eight distinctions out of 9 subjects including four (4) A1 s in his SSC Exams. He later gained admission into the Nnamdi Azikwe University to study Chemical Engineering.

He graduated with a First Class Honours degree with a cumulative grade point average of 4.85. He was the best graduating student in the Department of Chemical Engineering in 2016. He also set a record of having the highest

final cumulative grade point average ever recorded in his department since inception.

Mr. Ozofofor will be going for a Master of science degree in chemical engineering.

SLIDE 12

The fourth awardee is Miss. Oyindamola Badejo.

Miss. Badejo please come up to the rostrum.

Miss Badejo attended Excel Kiddz Foundation School at Abeokuta for her primary schooling and the Alaba Lawson Royal College also in Abeokuta for her secondary schooling.

She got eight (8) distinctions in the eight subjects she took in her SSC exams including for (4) A1.

She studied Biomedical Engineering at the Bell University of Technology in Ota, Ogun State, where she graduated with a B.Sc First Class honours degree with a cumulative grade point average of 4.89. She was the best graduating student in the Department of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering in 2016 as well as the best graduating student at the university.

Miss. Badejo will be pursuing a postgraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering.

SLIDE 13

The fifth awardee is Miss Mololuwa Josiah

Miss Josiah, please come up to the rostrum.

Miss Josiah attended All Saints Church School, Jericho, Ibadan for her primary schooling and the Seed of Life College, Onireke, Dugbe in Ibadan for her secondary schooling.

He got eight (8) distinctions out of the nine subjects she sat for in her SSC exams, including 5 A1s.

She later attended Ajayi Crowther University, where she studied computer science with ICT option. She graduated with a First class honours degree with a cumulative grade point average of 4.84.

Miss Josiah was the best graduating student in her department, faculty and the entire university in 2016.

Miss Josiah will be pursuing a Masters degree in computer science.

SLIDE 14

Ladies and Gentlemen , the sixth and final awardee of today is Miss Marian Orhierhor.

Miss Orhierhor , please come up to the rostrum.

Miss Orhierhor attended International Junior School and International High School both at Sapele, Delta State for her primary and secondary schooling respectively. She later attended the University of Benin to study Animal and Enviromental Biology.

He had nine (9) distinctions in the 9 subjectstst she took in her SSC exams including for(4) A1 and graduated at the top of

her class with a first class honours B.Sc degree and 4.93 cumulative grade point average.

Miss Orhierhor will be pursuing a Masters degree course in Parasitology and Public Health.

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Ladies and Gentlemen: , please congratulate the distinguished awardees of the 22nd Annual Postgraduate Scholarship award of the Stephen Oluwole Awokoya Foundation for Science Education

Mr. Olajide Hezekiah Bamidele

Miss Eziolu Stella Ilozuma

Mr. Ikenna Ozofor

Miss. Oyindamola Badejo

Miss Mololuwa Josiah

and

Miss Marian Orhierhor

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Stephen Oluwole Awokoya Foundation for Science Education , I congratulate you all.

I wish you every success in your academic endeavors

Dr. Fola Awokoya

Member, Board of Trustees