



FUTA NEWS

FUTA, United States based Nigerian Don to Collaborate on Development of Manpower for Mathematics

A Nigerian Professor of Mathematics at the City University of New York, United States of America, Dr. Nkechi Agu has lamented the scarcity of Mathematicians of African origin in the field. Dr. Agu who recently visited the Federal University of Technology, Akure came with the mission of collaborating with the University through its Centre for Gender Issues in Science and Technology (CEGIST) to stimulate improved interest of Africans in the field of Mathematics which is generally acknowledged as the backbone of Science Courses.

Addressing FUTA management, Dr. Agu said, "I am here on a collaborative project with FUTA. It is a project that will have far reaching benefits for FUTA and Nigeria. This project aims at addressing the absence of black African in Mathematics Literature. It has been observed that our students lack what it takes to understand Mathematics as a subject. Whereas there are culturally based tools that can be deployed to teach the subject to the students' they suffer in silence. It will also address gender inequity in Mathematics in Africa by bringing women to the forefront in the field. Today, we can count only a few women who are Doctors and Professors in the field and this is not good enough. Even the local woman with petty trading can do better with a basic knowledge of Mathematics. The project will also address how to use local and cultural materials to achieve great things. It will help our students at the local level to be creative by using cultural things in their community and this will invariably make them entrepreneurs which is the emphasis in most of our Universities world over today".

Receiving the visitor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Prof. Adedayo Fasakin who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiji Daramola commended Dr. Agu's innovative approach to mathematics and promised FUTA's readiness to collaborate with her. "You are in the right place because CEGIST has existed since 2009 and we are proud of its operation. CEGIST is focused on gender issues with a lot of successful projects. Your approach to stimulation of interest in Mathematics is novel and we are ready to buy into it. We all know how tough Mathematics is and we need to change the orientation of our young ones towards the subject". Fasakin concluded.

Dean, School of Sciences, Professor (Mrs.) Ibiyinka Fuwape in her address said "This novel project has some far reaching goals that will benefit FUTA, Nigeria and Africa. So we are keenly interested in it as a School".