WIGWE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

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We, the Fearless

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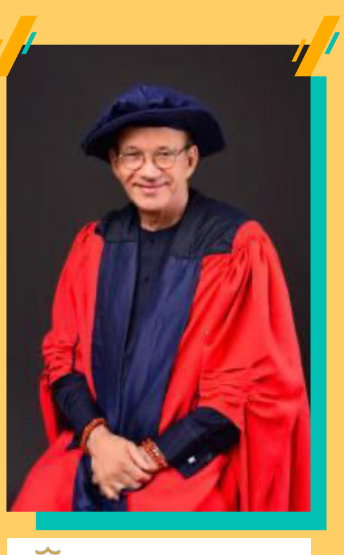
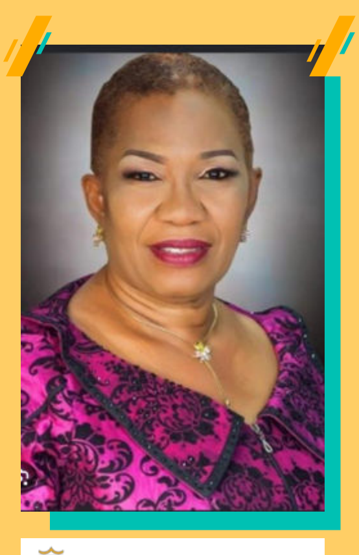
Wigwe University Reconstitutes Governing Council, Strengthens Leadership for Next Phase of Growth


Professor LeRoy Edozien


Professor Uchenna Udeani

Prof. Francis O. Egbokhare

Dr Ini-Abasi Abimbola

Mrs Omotunde Ikotun

The Board of Trustees, Wigwe University has announced the reconstitution of its Governing Council with the appointment of five distinguished academics and professionals, marking another significant step in the University's institutional development and pursuit of excellence in higher education.

The reconstituted Council will still be chaired by **Hon. Justice Amina Augie, JSC (Rtd.), CFR,** as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council. Joining the existing members are **Professor Francis Egbokhare, Professor Uchenna Udeani, Professor LeRoy Edozien, Dr Ini Abimbola, and Mrs Omotayo Ikotun.**

The new members bring extensive experience in higher education, academic leadership, governance, professional practice, strategic management and organisational development. Their appointment strengthens the University's governance structure and supports its strategic priorities in academic excellence, research and innovation, student development, institutional growth and global engagement.

The University is confident that the collective expertise and leadership of the reconstituted Council will contribute significantly to its next phase of growth and institutional consolidation, as it advances its vision to **ignite Africa's potential for prosperity, nurture fearless leaders, and become the leading university in Africa.**

The Board of Trustees also expressed its profound appreciation to **Mr Dapo Olagunju and Mr Gbenga Oyebode, MFR,** for their distinguished service and valuable contributions to the University's growth and development during their time on the Governing Council.

Building Tomorrow's Engineers: Wigwe University Kicks Off SWEP Orientation with Focus on Skills, Safety and Innovation

Students of the College of Engineering at Wigwe University have begun preparations for their Students Work Experience Programme (SWEP) following an orientation session designed to equip them for the four-week practical training exercise.

The orientation, held on campus ahead of the commencement of the programme, introduced students to the expectations of SWEP while reinforcing the importance of practical skills, workplace safety and professional conduct.

Addressing the students, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marwan Al-Akaidi, encouraged them to approach the training with curiosity, discipline and a willingness to learn. He described SWEP as a critical stage in their development as future engineers and urged them to maximise every opportunity the programme offers.

Professor Al-Akaidi noted that Nigeria needs engineers with strong technical competence and problem-solving abilities, adding that Wigwe University remains committed to providing students with the tools, facilities and practical exposure required to excel in the profession.

"Be open to learning, ask questions and think of solutions to problems, as this is the basis for becoming exceptional in your chosen field," he told the students.

The Vice-Chancellor further assured them of the University's continued investment in hands-on learning, stressing that engineering education goes beyond the classroom and is strengthened through practical experience and innovation.

As part of the orientation, students received detailed briefings on the proper use of general hand tools, workshop safety procedures and other essential guidelines that will shape their participation throughout the four-week training programme.

Leading the technical sessions was the Coordinator of SWEP, Dr Emmanuel Enesi of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, who took students through the practical expectations of the programme and emphasised the importance of adhering to established safety standards while developing technical competence.

The atmosphere throughout the orientation reflected the students' excitement as they eagerly

engaged with the facilitators and looked forward to gaining practical engineering experience. Their enthusiasm underscored the significance of the programme as an opportunity to bridge classroom learning with real-world application.

The Students Work Experience Programme forms an important part of Wigwe University's engineering education, providing students with the practical foundation needed to build confidence, develop industry-relevant skills and prepare for successful professional careers.

Wigwe University Students Take MyCampusPal to DevEast Competition

Two students of Wigwe University and co-creators of the innovative MyCampusPal App, the Fombo brothers, recently represented the University at the DevEast Competition held at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), Imo State, where they pitched their technology-driven solution to a panel of judges and fellow innovators.

The brothers took to the stage to present MyCampusPal, an application designed to enhance the student experience through technology. Although their pitch did not secure a place among the top three finalists, the experience provided an important opportunity to test their solution, engage with other innovators and gain valuable insights from participating in a competitive technology environment.

Reflecting on the experience, the Fombo brothers described their participation as a significant learning opportunity, noting that the competition enabled them to make new connections and, more importantly, establish an early presence for MyCampusPal within the FUTO community. For the young innovators, the outcome went beyond winning a competition, as it opened the door to new possibilities for expanding the reach and impact of their product.

As part of their next steps, the brothers plan to launch the MyCampusPal Ambassadorial Programme at FUTO, with an initial target of recruiting between six and ten student ambassadors by the end of September. The initiative is expected to help introduce the platform to more students while building a community of users and advocates within the university.

While the DevEast Competition did not end with a podium finish for the Wigwe University students, their participation represents another step in the development of MyCampusPal and the entrepreneurial journey of its creators. With the FUTO foothold now established, the Fombo brothers believe the experience marks the beginning of a much bigger opportunity for MyCampusPal.

Building Confidence, Community Ahead of Semester Examinations

In readiness for the commencement of the semester examinations, our proprietor-base, The HOW Foundation's University Liaison Unit, in partnership with the University Management, organized a fun-filled and refreshing engagement for students.

The event created an opportunity to hear directly from students about their campus experiences while exploring practical ways to strengthen student life and foster a more vibrant, supportive, and engaging university community.

With an atmosphere filled with great food, refreshing drinks, exciting games, music, and meaningful conversations, the gathering provided students with a welcome opportunity to unwind, connect, and recharge ahead of the examination period.

A highlight of the event was an interactive session led by humanitarian and mental health advocate, Lady Diana Eyo-Enoette, whose thoughtful facilitation inspired students, boosted their confidence, and reinforced the importance of personal wellbeing as they prepare for their examinations.

Earlier in the week, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marwan Al-Akaidi, had welcomed the HOW Foundation delegation, led by Ms. Susan Odeere, who had paid a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, during which they discussed opportunities for collaboration to enhance the overall student experience.

During the meeting, Professor Al-Akaidi reaffirmed the University's commitment to partnering with the Foundation on initiatives that promote student wellbeing, personal development, and a rewarding campus experience.

At Wigwe University, we believe that academic excellence is strengthened by a supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to thrive intellectually, socially, and emotionally. Initiatives such as this reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded graduates who are equipped for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Wigwe University, NDLEA Forge Partnership to Build a Drug-Free Campus

The Management of Wigwe University has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe and drug-free learning environment following a strategic meeting with the leadership of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Rivers State Command.

The meeting, held recently on the University's campus on Thursday, was led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marwan Al-Akaidi, who received the Rivers State Commander of the NDLEA, Commandant Offor Kenneth Onyeso, and members of his delegation. Discussions centred on strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse within the university community, disrupt the activities of drug peddlers, and block possible channels through which illicit substances could find their way into the campus.

Speaking during the meeting, Commandant Onyeso underscored the importance of a strong partnership between the University and the NDLEA in promoting a zero-tolerance stance on drug abuse. He noted that sustained awareness campaigns, counselling, and routine drug testing would play significant roles in discouraging substance abuse and encouraging responsible behaviour among members of the university community.

According to him, building a drug-free campus begins with education and leadership by example. He explained that when members of the University's leadership willingly participate in routine drug screening, it reinforces the institution's commitment to integrity and accountability, while encouraging students and staff to embrace the initiative without resistance.

The NDLEA Commander further stressed that awareness must remain at the heart of any anti-drug campaign. He explained that educating young people on the health, social and legal consequences of drug abuse, alongside providing access to counselling and rehabilitation support, would help individuals make informed decisions and overcome addiction where necessary.

Responding, Professor Al-Akaidi welcomed the proposed collaboration, describing it as a timely initiative that aligns with Wigwe University's vision of providing a secure environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

He also directed the University's security unit to strengthen surveillance and screening procedures at all entry points into the campus to minimize the risk of prohibited substances being brought into the University.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed appreciation to the NDLEA for its readiness to partner with the institution. He assured the delegation of the University's full cooperation in implementing initiatives that will promote a culture free from drug abuse.

The visit marks another step in Wigwe University's ongoing efforts to safeguard the well-being of its community while fostering an environment that supports learning, character development and responsible citizenship.

Wigwe University Takes Malaria Fight to Isiokpo, Distributes Mosquito Nets to Residents

Wigwe University recently reinforced its commitment to promoting healthy communities by taking its health advocacy beyond the campus into its host community of Isiokpo, where residents were educated on malaria prevention and healthy living as part of the University's Health Awareness Day.

The outreach, organised by the University's medical team over the weekend, aligns with the University's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and its broader community development agenda.

Addressing members of the community, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marwan Al-Akaidi, said the initiative reflects the University's belief that meaningful development begins with healthy people and healthy communities.

He noted that the programme was designed to encourage residents to adopt hygienic practices that help prevent diseases, particularly malaria, by eliminating mosquito breeding sites and maintaining cleaner surroundings.

"Our responsibility as a university extends beyond teaching and research. We are equally committed to improving the well-being of our host community through practical interventions that promote healthier lifestyles," the Vice-Chancellor said.

The event featured an interactive health talk delivered by the Chief Medical Officer of the Wigwe University Clinic, Dr Emmanuel Aniegboka, who encouraged residents to embrace simple but effective habits that support good health, regardless of their financial circumstances.

He stressed the importance of personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, regular health checks, and preventive healthcare, reminding participants that many common illnesses can be avoided through informed daily choices.

To further support malaria prevention efforts, the University distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to more than 85 residents, including children, youths, adults, and the elderly.

Residents expressed appreciation to the University for bringing the health campaign directly to the community, describing the sensitisation and free mosquito nets as timely interventions in the fight against malaria.

The Health Awareness Day forms part of Wigwe University's sustained efforts to strengthen its relationship with its host community while contributing meaningfully to public health, preventive healthcare, and sustainable development.

NUC-SIWES Unit Assesses Wigwe University's Readiness to Deliver Effective Student Industrial Training

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marwan Al-Akaidi, alongside members of the University leadership, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, received a delegation from the SIWES Unit of the National Universities Commission (NUC) on an assessment visit to evaluate the readiness of Wigwe University's SIWES Directorate.

Speaking during the exit meeting, the leader of the delegation and Chief Skills Development Officer at the NUC-SIWES Unit, Dr Hauwa Ilemona, appreciated the University Management for the warm reception accorded the team and for allowing them the freedom to carry out their assignment.

Dr Ilemona, who was accompanied by Mr Bluejack Minasigha, shared valuable insights with the University leadership on steps to strengthen the SIWES Directorate and enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, particularly in ensuring that students derive maximum benefit from the scheme.

In his remarks, Professor Al-Akaidi thanked the delegation for conducting the assessment professionally and for providing honest and constructive feedback. He noted that the recommendations were geared towards helping the University achieve the objectives behind the establishment of the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES).

The Vice-Chancellor assured the delegation that the recommendations would receive prompt attention from the Directorate, with the full support of the University Management.

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