

FUW gets CISCO Academy Status

Federal University Wukari has been granted a CISCO Academy Status and will serve the North East geopolitical zone.

This cheering news was disclosed by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abubakar.M. Kundiri during the first interactive stakeholders' conference on Information Communication Technology (ICT) held recently in the University. The conference which drew participants from all academic and non academic departments was called with the objective to draw up an ICT policy for the university and therefore afforded those present avenues to present their needs and experiences.

Collaborating with the Vice-Chancellor on the CISCO status, Dr. John Odey who doubles as the Programme Coordinator said, CISCO academy is the largest networking company in the world located in San Francisco, California which was founded in December, 1984 by Leonard Bosack and Sandy Lerner; two renowned Stanford University computer scientist who pioneered the concept of a Local Area Network (LAN). It provides an opportunity for mostly third world countries to have a platform for trainings and certificates like CCNA, COMPA etc.

Interestingly, Federal University Wukari (FUW) is now one of the privileged universities/institutions in Nigeria who have acquired the status of a CISCO academy. This was premised when lecturers from the university under the leadership of Dr. John Odey of Computer Science Department attended a training workshop and excellently passed at seventy five percent success rates. The excellence performance by lecturers automatically placed FUW as a CISCO academy.

By the conferment of CISCO academy on FUW it implies that the institution is now tasked to provide the facilities to enable the programme survive which will enable the training of students, staff and the general public. This also will avail the

university a window to apply for grants and partnership in other developmental areas in collaboration with CISCO.

Dr. Odey further explains that CISCO certificates are internationally recognized certificates. “Acquiring the certificates here in FUWukari it means if you travel to London, Tokyo or anywhere in the world the certificate will be recognized and most of the high-paying jobs across the world today require CISCO certificates. Aside the increase in the credibility standard of the university and putting the university on the global map, it will also serve as an income generation opportunity for the university and ensure easy access to training facilities and certification for staff and students.” He added.

FUW is required to provide a nurturing environment for the CISCO academy programme to work. The institution is supposed and required to provide facilities for general training that will ensure access to web for online activities. This is because most of the trainings are to be done online. When the examination is being conducted, the rating is done instantly so you can have access to your CISCO results online provided the required facilities are in place.

At the moment FUW have the man power capacity in place to commence CISCO training slated for December, 2016.

PROF. KUNDIRI TURBANED AS GARKUWAN MATASAN AREWA

For his contribution to the university and the educational development in Nigeria, the Northern Youth Council (NYC), whose members cut across the nineteen states of the Federation has conferred on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abubakar Musa

Kundiri with the title of "*Garkuwan Matasan Arewa*" Prof. Kundiri was presented with a medal and a plaque and later turbaned.

The speaker, Northern Youth Council Mr. Abdul Muhammed Kazeem described the Vice-Chancellor as an individual that is totally driven by a desire to positively impact the lives of others, large hearted, detribalized Nigerian who increasingly pours out his love, time and resources into caring for others, showing them care that they cannot possibly reciprocate.

According to him, Prof. Kundiri, was selected as the most appropriate personality because he symbolizes the resilience and venturesome spirit of triumph of the Northern Nigerian character, a man who is ahead of his generation, and who provides the north the side map of educational development.

"Everything about Prof. Kundiri speaks integrity and today not only does his lifestyle reflect this virtue, he also preaches it. He is well noted for his uncompromising stand on issues of transparency, accountability and equity right from his days as a lecturer, the Vice-Chancellor aside from being humble, and integrity-conscious, he equally believes that whatever one does one must consider others. He also believes in peaceful co-existence with everybody around him and whatever he finds himself." Comrade Kazeem noted.

Prof. Kundiri, according to the youth leader, is not a stranger to administration, academia and almost every sphere of dealings in this country as his antecedents and contribution to the smooth socio-economic and Educational Development of Nigeria has stood the test of time.

In his acceptance speech, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kundiri expressed his appreciation for the courtesy call as well the award given to him by the NYC, describing the award and other previous awards he has been given as stimulants as well as a mean of challenging him to put more effort to meet up with the expectations of the citizenry on him as the Vice-Chancellor.

He therefore urged the group to continue with the good work they started, while praying that God will lead them through in their quest to actualize their dream of

uniting the North as well contribute positively for its development and Nigeria at large.

A highlight of the event includes the decoration of the University Registrar Mr. Magaji T. Gangumi alongside the Vice-Chancellor for their brave and meritorious contribution to the Federal University Wukari and educational system in Nigeria at large. The decoration was witnessed by the Dean of Students Affairs Dr. (Mrs.) Judith Mgbemina.

In her closing remarks the Dean Students Affairs thanked the visitors and advised them not to relent in their effort of sporting and acknowledging the good deeds and achievements of distinguished personalities, the northern region and Nigeria as a whole.

Members of Northern Youth Council present at award were: Addulsalam M. Kazeem – Kadpoly; Mohammed Salifu – Zaria State; Yahaya Salihu – Kano State; Babagana Ali – Maiduguri State; Mike M.S. and Kput Simon – Benue State; Suleman I. Babankwata – Taraba State; Usman Umar – Adamawa State; Abubakar M. Bello – Sokoto State and Ahmed Ibrahim – Niger State.

SEN. BWACHA PLEDGES SUPPORT TO FUW

The Senator representing Southern Taraba at the National Assembly, Emmanuel Bwacha, has pledged to support the management of Federal University Wukari actualize the dreams of its founding fathers.

Senator Bwacha, who spoke while on a constituency tour to the University promised to lobby fellow senators as the Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Education, facilitate speedy passage of relevant legislations that will drive the University system in the country.

He commended the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abubakar Musa Kundiri and his management team for initiating programmes and policies that he acknowledged has impacted the host community positively. “I must acknowledge your efforts in this University, the host community, and even among our elites. I have a strong

conviction and trust that God will give the enabling environment to succeed.” Bwacha stated.

Prof. A.M. Kundiri, in his welcome remarks said his quest to succeed was awakened by the enthusiastic multitude that turned up to receive him on assumption of office. “I am totally driven by the desire to positively impact on the lives of the people, more especially those that thronged out to welcome me on the day I arrived this ancient city of Wukari. And for this, I am challenged to work hard so as to touch the lives of many people. This can only be achieved through laying solid foundation for the university as well as provide services to the host community. I will place this University on the proper pedestals that will make it one of the best ranked universities in Nigeria.” The Vice-Chancellor lamented. The university don appreciated the Senator for the august visit and pledge for sustenance of the synergy between the elites, the university, and its host community.

TIV STAFF FORUM VISITS KUNDIRI

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University Wukari Prof. Abubakar Kundiri has been described as a close relation to the Tiv people. The pronouncement was made by Mr. James Chimin, the chairman of the Federal University Wukari Tiv staff forum during a solidarity visit to the Vice-Chancellor.

Mr. Chimin expressed delight for the privilege of being the Vice-Chancellor’s guests said the Tiv staff forum deemed it imperative to commiserate with the Vice-Chancellor over his well deserved appointment.

He added that they had observed with interest, within a few months after his assumption of office and discovered the Vice-Chancellor has a sound knowledge of the inner workings of the Nigerian University system hence the need to visit him in order to register their appreciation and encouragement.

Mr. Chimin who is the University Farm manager said his group is confident that Prof. Kundiri would excel as the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University Wukari.

Responding, Prof. Kundiri thanked them for the visit saying he was heartened and encouraged. He urged members of the group to discharge their duties diligently with the fear of God as that is the yardstick he uses to relate with all the people he works with.

“I would like to admonish you to always fear God and discharge your duties without fear or favour because this is the yardstick in relating with all staff by assigning duties and responsibilities based on competence rather than tribal relationship or sentiment.”

As usual, the Vice-Chancellor explained that his major concern has been for the University to meet the requirements of its forthcoming accreditation exercise to be conducted by the Nigerian Universities Commission in the near future.

“Similarly, the University will for the first time, by next year, have a presidential and institutional visitation accreditation” he disclosed.

In his vote of thanks, Registrar of the University, Mr. Thomas Magaji Gangumi extolled the economic roles of the Tiv people in Taraba state and Nigeria as a whole in terms of Agricultural production and urged them to be law abiding in their various duty posts in the University.

A major highlight of the visit was decoration of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kundiri in the Tiv traditional attire.

FUW SENSITIZES STAFF ON NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

(NHIS)

Federal University Wukari in collaboration with National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) organized a sensitization and interactive programme at the University's 600

capacity hall on 21st June, 2016, with the aim of educating and enlightening the University staff on the need for routine medical check-ups.

Declaring the programme open, the Registrar Mr. Thomas Gangumi represented by the Deputy Registrar Mr. Sunday Ndamatti explained that National Health Insurance Scheme is a programme that works to ensure a healthy workforce and enhance productivity among public servants.

Speaking on the importance of the exercise, Dr. Gift Alenga Owhondah, Senior Quality Assurance Officer of Ultimate Health Management Services (UHMS) advised people to always see the need to visit health facilities for routine check ups.

She said, “the era of visiting hospitals only when one is sick is gone. People should always visit hospitals routinely for checkups with particular emphasis on blood pressure”.

According to Dr. Owhondah, high blood pressure is a silent killer because it has no signs and symptoms and can affect the brain, kidney, heart and eyes. “To prevent hypertension, one has to adopt lifestyle modification such as physical exercise, reduction of salt intake and stress, quitting of smoking, use of cholesterol-free oil, avoidance of red or organ meat among others”, she stressed.

To effectively access the UHMS’s services, the senior quality assurance officer urged staff of Federal University Wukari to call UHMS anytime their expectations are not met by their chosen hospitals or healthcare providers while they are in those hospitals.

Commenting on the role of federal government in the facilitation of the NHIS programme, Mrs. Tina Onoteagan, Relationship Management Senior Officer with UHMS said the government has been determined to make health care affordable and accessible to all Nigerians. She explained that the Government normally does that by subsidizing the total cost of prescription done by health providers by 90% through the NHIS programme for all registered members.

Dr. Polycarp Uten, Director, University Clinic and Health Services (FUW), praised the combined team of NHIS and UHMS for joining forces to ensure the carrying out of a successful sensitization programme. He appreciated staff of the University for their positive response to the programme and assured that the University Clinic will soon be certified by NHIS which shall bring quality healthcare services to the door-step of staff and the entire university community. In the course of the event, the National Health Insurance Scheme field workers registered new members and attended to complaints. Questions and answers were entertained and participants were clarified on salient issues concerning the scheme.

The programme was packaged by the Ultimate Health Management Services (UHMS) in conjunction with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).