

# My CSAAE Story



-CSAAE-

**Together we can make Africa a better place**

# *My CSAAE Story*

# Russell Ubazoro

Final Year Student of Maritime Engineering, FUTO

**“I can’t wait to leave school, not to join the pool of thousands of Nigerians unemployed, but to create a new niche in the Nigerian Agricultural/Industrial Microbiology sector and employ young people just like myself to work for me.”**

The banana is one of the sweetest fruits known to man. But before such a fruit is made available, certain conditions need to be met to make the banana plant thrive and bear fruit.

Like every young Nigerian, I knew that I had something to give, but discovering, grooming and implementing it was what I couldn’t fathom.

In 2014, I was accepted into the Emerging African Leaders Program (ELP) of the Center for Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics, Incorporated (CSAAE) and that was when the Reformation began.

Meeting up with the tough requirements of ELP was tedious for me, but I was getting developed. In 2015, the founder asked me to speak to over 1200 students at the College of Education Obudu in Cross River State on the topic: “Let’s Go Farming.” The exposure was a new learning experience for me as that was my first time to make a public presentation.

In 2016, I submitted a lot of ideas for my Community Development Project (CDP) and wanted to pursue all. But our founder, Fr. Godswill

Agbagwa advised me to start with one initiative. I was dismayed but obeyed.

In 2017, I received funds from our founder to launch one of my business ideas and was able to build my own greenhouse for mushroom farming on campus. Never before have I been given such a huge responsibility through which I mastered the art of multi-tasking – working at the farm and attending classes.

I’ve acquired a lot of business skills and developed my entrepreneurial spirit through this project: Patience, the humility to seek for advice from people, devotion to duty, accountability, the ability to think and innovate, the art of planning before execution, etc.

During ELP biannual conferences, I met people that I would probably not have met. At one of our conferences, our founder assigned an expert in mushroom farming to guide me, Thank you Professor Cajethan Okwujiako for all that you’ve taught me on mushroom farming. Thank you CSAAE for leading me to this smart and nice British trained professor of biochemistry at FUTO.



What else can I say? I can’t wait to leave school, not to join the pool of thousands of Nigerians unemployed, but to create a new niche in the Nigerian agricultural/Industrial Microbiology sector and employ young people just like myself to work for me.

The ability to manage and grow this business has been imbibed in me, by the mentors and business consultants at CSAAE.

CSAAE has provided the environment for me and many other young Nigerians to thrive, grow and bear fruit for the betterment of the African society. All at no cost to me.

# Agagbe Kelvin Terlumun

## Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi Benue State

**“I found my “how” in a community where dreams thrive and imaginations become real when in December 2017, I was launched in a safe space by CSAAE.”**

As a Nigerian youth with a fair understanding of my society, I have always wanted to impact positively on the lives, systems, and norms of my community but the troubling question was “how” and “when” to begin this journey of impact, with the dream of becoming the Governor of my state as center focus.

I found my “how” in a community where dreams thrive and imaginations become real when in December 2017, I was launched in a safe space by CSAAE. In this space, I soar beyond the clouds, champion my dreams and aspirations, and shape my world.

The shaping process began with the CSAAE Foundation Conference in Ikeja, Lagos State. I was blown away by the introductory speech of an eloquent, brilliant, young and passionate man with an unbeatable oratory prowess whom I would later know as Rev. Dr. Godswill Agbagwa, the President and Founder of CSAAE.

In his, address, I singled out the continuous emphasis on the need to nurture big dreams and initiate a Community Development Project (CDP) as a mandatory criterion to remain a member of the Organization.

I was immediately motivated to do more to bring out the best in me.

With weekly webinars that expose me to the trends in contemporary leadership and a carefully structured mentoring programme, CSAAE continuously provides answers to my most troubling questions and is positively shaping my innate leadership strengths to help me make desired impact in my community.

I am the proud initiator of a Community Development Project titled: “Good Governance Campaign- GOGOCampaign”, an awareness and advocacy initiative aimed at introducing emerging leaders (drawn from secondary and tertiary institutions) to the concept of ethical leadership and tenets of good governance. Many thanks to CSAAE Mentors and Resource Persons who help to guide me in this project to achieve sterling successes.

With over thirty-two (32) young leaders trained so far in my community, I am convinced that GOGOCampaign will provide lasting solutions to the problem of failed leadership in Nigeria by raising a

crop of future ethical leaders.



I am eternally grateful to CSAAE for harboring and nurturing me in this amazing zone- my safe space. Indeed, CSAAE is causing a positive revolution in Africa.

Wouldn't you rather join this revolution to make Africa a better place? Join me on this impact

Journey! There is a space for you! A safe space where dreams are real.

# Praymore Dandy

College Of Nursing And Midwifery, Vom

**“I thought of quitting many times because the journey got tougher but CSAAE reminded me that when the journey gets tough only the toughest survive.”**



As a teenage girl who just graduated from Girls' High School, Gindiri somewhere in plateau state, I was this reserved, timid girl who could barely speak to someone who was not a close friend, family or relative. All attempt made by my mom to get me to go out and relate with others failed.

But after I gained admission into a university to study 'Physics' and resumed classes, I got another admission into a school of Nursing. Without hesitations, I took it. It was my 2nd choice and it brought me closer to my passion; 'helping people'. Initially, that decision

seemed like the worst but it turned out to be the best decision of my life because it led me to CSAAE.

I joined CSAAE in 2016 after it was advertised in my school by Francisca Ekwonu. I had to go through essay writing and interview sessions. Boom, I was one of the 25 who were chosen. This transformed my life.

I attended the foundation conference in December 2016 at Owerri, Imo state. While there, I met youths of like mind and people I ordinarily would never have gotten close to like Mr. Chike Nwosu. The founder's (Rev. Fr. Godswill Agbagwa) dream was the most inspiring I had ever listened to.

From there everything changed, for I began to gain knowledge, shed off fear, timidity and most of all got experience and exposure in a very safe manner. I mean 'the village girl had entered a lift, learned to take tea with just 2 cubes at most, speak amidst a hundred' and most of all learned to 'journey beyond the horizon', from a book the Centre mandated us to read while traveling

around Nigeria. As far as I am concerned, greatness became my most important priority.

I also embarked on a Community Development Project which is compulsory in the Centre; 'Motivating Youths and Advocacy Against Drug Abuse'(MYAADA). Hmmm, you know I sometimes used my last hundred Naira in school for recharge card to join in CSAAE training online, you know why? Without CSAAE, I am just that timid girl.

I thought of quitting many times because the journey got tougher but CSAAE reminded me that when the journey gets tough only the toughest survive and to think that a girl like me could contest for Miss Florence Nightingale, CON & M, Vom and won was unimaginable. Yeah, it also taught me not to shy away from society/social stuff too. All thanks to God Almighty and CSAAE.

I sincerely appreciate God, CSAAE and our Mentors for creating safe space for me.

Thank you.

Together we can make Africa a better place.

# Igwe Chibuzor Priscilla

## Graduate of International Relations, Ebony State University “I NEVER WANTED TO BE AN ORDINARY STUDENT”

In October 2013, when I saw my name as one of the newly admitted students, my joy knew no bound; I had in mind of going into the university to make impacts, attend conferences, network with people and make new friends.

I never wanted to be an ordinary student, I wanted exposure, but then I had a limitation, myself.

As much as I tried to portray to people that I was confident enough, deep down within I was fighting with low self-confidence.

In 2014, I applied for a random fellowship, I just wanted to travel (smiles). My friend, Precious knew how much I wanted to travel and explore the world.

November 2014, I received a phone call from an international number that I have been selected as one of the cohorts of the Emerging Leaders Program, which is under the auspices of the Centre for Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics (CSAAE). I was happy, that at least I could get a chance to travel and network (my dream of not being a usual student was coming into fulfillment).

I remember entering a hall and meeting young Nigerian students like myself. They answered beautifully to questions asked, but I stayed mute, smiled and interacted with only a few persons. I was so isolated and reserved. Throughout the conference, I never stood up to

answer questions. I had the urge to speak but I never left my shell.

Fast forward to December 2016. How can I forget that glorious morning? It was our closing ceremony for our 2016 foundation conference and our founder was giving his closing remarks. There and then he spilled the bean. In his exact words “Priscilla will be our ELP president for the next one year”. Ehn!



The surprise on my face made everyone laugh. I was shaking, it couldn't be true. There were more qualified persons than me. Yes, I cried (I'm that emotional). I got to hear from people the great leadership qualities I have, but I never saw from their lens, I never knew I did the amazing things they said I did.

2017 was an amazing year for me. I was stretched academically,

intellectually and in all facets. I learned how to multi-task, I met people who ordinarily, I wouldn't have met. I shook hands with people (high profile people). I addressed crowds. I could boldly talk to people, I could express myself. I earned so much respect and I became a better me.

Through the rigorous activities we did at the Centre, I became better. The story is certainly longer than this. CSAAE created a safe space for me. How can I forget, CSAAE inspired and powered my community development project: **“No Child Dropout Initiative.”** I had the desire to do something for my country and CSAAE has been the backbone of it.

In commemorating the 2018 International Youth Day, here is me saying thank you to everyone whom God has used to stretch me, broken my shell and allowed me to see the real me and become better.

Here is me saying thank you to my mentor Rev. Fr. Dr. Godswill Agbagwa. You saw right into me. You believed in me, thanks for the counsel, thanks for the direction, thank you for creating safe spaces for thousands of Nigerian youths.

CSAAE, since its inception, has created safe spaces for thousands of youths in Nigeria and I'm glad, I'm one of them.

# AYO BRIGHT

## *University of Jos, Plateau State*

**“I also met Rev. Fr. Dr. Godswill Agbagwa, founder of CSAAE and I was touched; this man brought people from all over the country together, fed us, accommodated us and even reimbursed money spent on transportation. What manner of selflessness is this? I asked myself and there, my hopes for a better Nigeria and a better Africa was renewed!”**

I am Ayo Bright, just a young man from Nigeria. I became a member of the CSAAE's Emerging Leaders Program back in 2016.

Prior to the time I joined ELP, I was very angry at what was happening in my country, Nigeria but I didn't do anything about it, I was almost giving up totally on any hope that the country would become better. Out of the little atom of hope I had that this country can actually become better, I saw the application to join the Emerging Leaders Program and I decided to “shoot my shot” and I got in.

Now, it was time to go for the Foundation Conference and Impact dinner in Imo State, Nigeria; after much tussle, we boarded a bus to Imo.

We arrived at Imo, got to the hotel



and I was amazed! I did not expect to see that sort of ‘belief’ that Nigeria is going to be better! I had the chance to meet the former DG of INEC, Late Prof. Momoh and he brought tears to my eyes! He was very ill but he had already given his word that he was going to be there and he came; you could see

he wasn't feeling well but you could also see the energy, the anger in him for a better Nigeria.

I also met Dr. Godswill Agbagwa, founder of CSAAE and I was touched; this man brought people from all over the country together, fed us, accommodated us and even reimbursed money spent on transportation. What manner of selflessness is this? I asked myself and there, my hopes for a better Nigeria and a better Africa was renewed!

I was inspired and powered by CSAAE to kick off my project; an initiative aimed at getting young people involved in making Africa a better place through the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and it makes me so happy creating impact in my little way.

# Samson I. Okolinta (EAL)

## B.Sc (Economics) Imo State University, Owerri.

**“ The Centre also made me believe that I can do anything great. This belief led me into organizing an economic Conference in June which registered over 100 participants from Imo State University and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, while a student.”**

“I would like you to apply for this,” an intelligent man, holding a brown envelope approached me. Bringing out a handbill from his envelope, he continued, “I have worked with this NGO for sometime and I’m sure you’d benefit a lot from the Centre. If you emerge as one of the Centre’s Emerging Leaders, you’ll travel both home and abroad for her Foundation Conferences and Mid year Summits.”

I wouldn’t want to say that I answered CSAAE’s Call for Application because of these enticing words. The truth was that, these words came from my Student Mentor and just like I still believe, my Mentors want the best for me.

Mr. Nwaegbu Oluebube, whom I had subconsciously taken as my Mentor had not only helped me solve academic challenges by introducing me to Ekeh Miracle but also gave me the opportunity to apply for the Centre’s Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) in 2014.

When I applied, I was skeptical about the content of my essay. I didn’t write as much as I wanted to, we were constrained to do so. The topic exacerbated things. I was asked what I could do for my country, Nigeria. I knew I could write three pages of what I could do, but the truth was that some of those things I would have written would have been built on mendacious and deceptive grounds. I wrote in explicit terms, what I would do for Nigeria, veraciously stating my roles and fortunately, I was accepted into the Emerging Leaders Program of the Centre and I have since then, had a

better Samson.

The Center for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics, Incorporated, has not only provided a safer space for my colleagues and I, but ensured that we utilize the space given to us. This space didn’t only annihilate my exasperating political insouciance, but inspired my contesting for NESAspeakers at my department.

CSAAE Inc Founder and President, Rev. Fr. Dr. Godswill Agbagwa, kept reminding us that Africa’s problem is failure in leadership and this we must fight. I wanted to solve this problem in my department. At least, I needed to start somewhere. I wanted to be part of those that would bring positive changes to my department and by doing some things, I became political enemies with some people who I don’t see today as enemies.

Maybe, somehow, I would have graduated with a First Class Degree but for some reasons, I didn’t, maybe, just maybe because I did “student politics” or because I wasn’t just fit for it.

I still didn’t get daunted even when the result played in my head, I still wanted to put things right and my team and I resorted to using the NESAConstitution to do this; we reviewed the Constitution, reduced the administrative powers of the President, gave more powers to the Vice President and empowered the NESAHouse of Assembly. Our aim was to help the new members of the House of Assembly checkmate the excesses of the executives and this we started by reviewing the Constitution with the hope to get it signed by the



new administration.

This, I did not do just because I needed to do it, CSAAE made it sound like an aberration if any of us ended up not contesting for political positions in school and after school, after all, we needed to have the practical sides of all we learnt at the Foundation Conferences.

The Centre also made me believe that I can do anything great. This belief led me into organizing an economic Conference in June which registered over 100 participants from Imo State University and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, while a student. The belief also inspired the Error Corruption Index- a newly developed index for measuring corruption objectively using Econometrics and made me achieve excellent results in and after school.

Thank you, CSAAE  
Thank you for reading, Friends.  
Together, we can make Africa a better place.

# EAL ORAEKI CHUKWUJEKWU JOF

*B.Sc Applied Microbiology And Brewing*

**“CSAAE helped me reach out and make impact on people at the grassroots level with effective leadership skills.”**

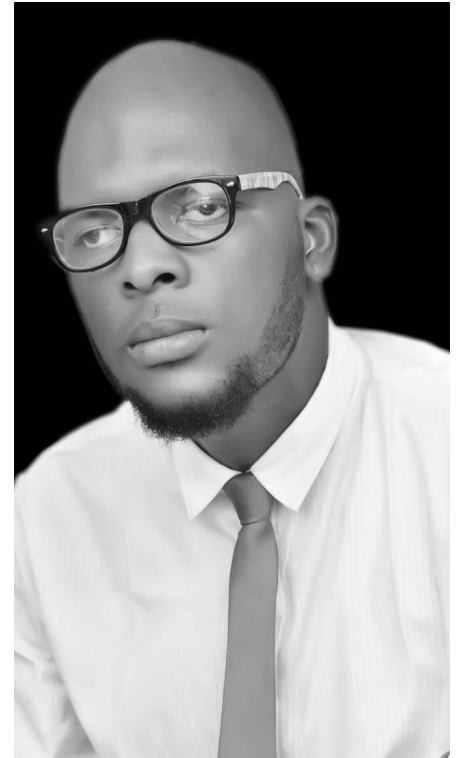
Growing up in this part of the world, I have always had this mentality that being a good leader and carrying everyone along is a feat that cannot be accomplished. This mindset has always held me down in nursing my dream of becoming an influential leader. So I felt that being a good leader or someone possessing the right leadership skills that can make a difference, were a just mere illusion and can only be found in the figment of my imagination.

However, a new phase of my life began and I had a redress in mentality when I joined Emerging Leaders Programme of CSAAE. In one of the annual foundation conference in 2014, held to discuss African Leadership Challenges, I personally decided to follow every bit of the session, training and the experience became a turning point in my life to the journey of

destiny.

The ELP conferences, one-on-one mentoring, mid-year summits, seminars, training, film viewings, taught me how to engage; what has been my limitation for years. It is said that “Where there is lack of vision, people perish,” CSAAE gave me the vision I desired, in order to make a good leader, helped me reach out and make impact on people at the grassroot level with effective leadership skills.

An intellectual mind once said “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination”, such is the case here at CSAAE. Here I have learnt that I cannot change the direction of leadership in my present-day society, but with the knowledge I have acquired through the help of CSAAE, a



bright and smooth leadership awaits me, which will definitely help me reach my destination.

## Martha Ebiale

Cross River University Of Technology

**“Through CSAAE, I have been opportune to travel to places, meet new and wonderful people and get to know my Country even better.”**

As a young girl, I have dreams for my community, Nigeria and Africa as a whole, but how to accomplish these dreams was just fate. I used to be a shy girl but I needed a

platform where I could develop myself and sorta motivation to ginger my enthusiasm.

I had friends with the same

mindset of making Nigeria a better place and one of them introduced me to CSAAE. At first, I thought it was a scam and I felt reluctant to write the essay. But something

kept telling me to write the essay and hence, maximize every given opportunity that comes my way.

I took my essay on the last day for submission and hurriedly went to a cyber café and did all that was necessary. I and my friends who wrote the essay were all interviewed and thanks to God, it was a success. My name was shortlisted, a congratulatory message together with an acceptance letter was sent via my email.

The end of the year summit together with our impact dinner which was

held at Lagos was a boom! It was inspiring listening to our mentors, speakers and it was there I was inspired to start my CDP- Menstrual Hygiene Management for Girls (MHMG)- powered and sponsored by the center.

In Conclusion, through CSAAEINC, I have been opportune to travel to places, meet new and wonderful people and get to know my Country even better.

Thank you CSAAEINC for this opportunity.



## Ogbeide-Ihama Edenamiuki

Department of Animal Science, University of Benin

**“Since my encounter with CSAAE, I am proudly working on keeping the environment clean and green, caring about the effects of an unhealthy environment on the health and lives of others, impacting in the lives of those around me and my society.”**

My name is Ogbeide-Ihama Edenamiuki. A 300L Animal Science student of the faculty of Agriculture, University of Benin. I joined CSAAE Emerging Nigerian Leader in 2016. Permit me to share with you my CSAAE safe space story.

Before I joined CSAAE, I noticed things which were not rightly done by those in the community where I live, but never really had the interest to do anything about it. I found comfort in minding my business, not having the guts to correct people's wrong - as long as it did not affect me. I felt such was a safe space because I neither offended anyone nor got offended.

In 2016/2017, CSAAE provided what is a truly a safe space for me, a space where everyone and every possible consequence of each action. At this I began to reconsider because even if it seemed to have no effect now, there is always one in the future - few hours, days, weeks, months or even years.

After my encounter with CSAAE I am proudly working on keeping the environment clean and green, caring about the effects of an unhealthy environment on the health and lives of others, impacting in the lives of those around me and my society. I am on each day, getting closer to my big dream, as I



am being trained to be better in all I do, developing myself each day, and doing everything possible to make an impact.

# GEGELE TAIYE

University Of Ilorin

**“The annual foundation conference/ impact dinner was a turning point for me to redirecting my purpose and influence as a young person.”**

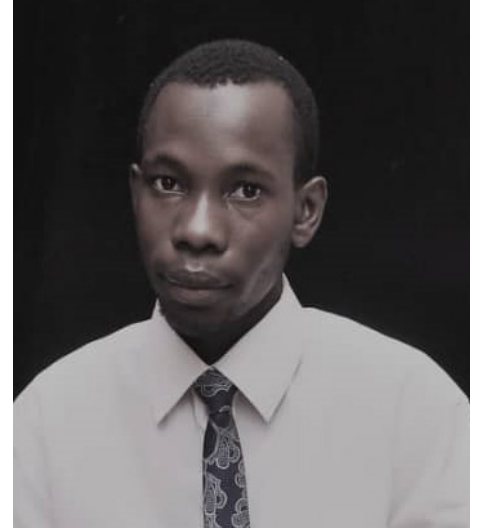
My journey towards a higher level in self-development, started with a call for application into the Centre for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics (CSAAE), emerging leaders' program. After passing through the selection stage, it was time for the annual foundation conference and induction into the emerging leaders' program (ELP). The annual foundation conference/ impact dinner was a turning point for me to redirecting my purpose and influence as a young person. I had the rare privilege of meeting the legal luminary, Olisa Agbakoba and Prof. Pat Utomi, take away and impact of the foundation conference is a story still waiting to be told.

The Centre created a safe space by inspiring and supporting a community development, called project AADACO (Action Against Drug Abuse, Cultism and Other Social Vices) which I happen to initiate.

The challenges and successes

recorded in the community development program, has improved me in a number of ways which include; using time effectively, managing human and financial resources, thinking out of the box to get solutions to problems facing my immediate environment and of course, never to take NO for an answer! Succeeding in this programme led me serious involvement such as engaging various school principals and convincing them on the need to sensitize students of their respective secondary schools on Drug Abuse, Cultism and Other Social Vices.

Being among those selected to host the Centre's annual mid-year summit was quite challenging, but I loved it for sake of the lessons it came with, it was indeed a life-changing experience that has increased my personal development, especially with regard to inter-personal relationship with people of other tribe and religion, as well as negotiating on better terms and soliciting sponsorship.



The mid-year summit afforded me the opportunity to learn more about career building, getting loans and grants for business startups and various study opportunities abroad.

The Centre for Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics is a haven that has aided my learning, re-learning and un-learning. Truly, we're making Africa a Better Place Together in this safe space.

## EKEZIE CHISOM

*Federal University of Technology Owerri, FUTO*

**“CSAAE taught me to be confident, to multi-task, to build substantial relationships, to take up leadership roles and to take responsibility for my actions.”**

When I received a text message from the Federal University of technology, Owerri on the 3rd October, 2013, congratulating me on my admission

into their institution, I knew another phenomenal phase of my life was about to begin. I already envisaged my stay in the

institution, the dreams in my head were both daunting and mind-blowing. The situation of things on campus that was presented to me,

was not what I anticipated. The abnormal was being accepted as normal and right. If anyone dares to challenge the status quo, you would be regarded as an outcast. The struggle was real and somehow I felt out of place.

The NFCS FUTU family brought me in contact with Nzubechi Pantaleon Uwaleme, who encouraged me to apply for the Emerging Nigerian Leaders program. Browsing through CSAAE website ([www.csaaeinc.org](http://www.csaaeinc.org)), I felt strength from above, I said to myself, “Chisom you just found a family.”

I was truly amazed to find an

organization that grooms young students into ethical leaders, to champion the change that is required for the growth and development of Africa.

CSAAE taught me to be confident, to multi-task, to build substantial relationships, to take up leadership roles and to take responsibility for my actions.

I can't tell a complete story of my journey to greatness without mentioning CSAEINC.

To Fr. Godswill Agbagwa and all CSAAE 's BOT, I am immensely grateful.



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## Ikeanyi Ozioma

*Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka*

**“CSAAE got me detribalized as I got to interact, and make friends with people from different tribes.”**

As a young girl, I have dreams which actualizing them, I think would be just by fate. I knew academic qualifications aren't enough in our today's Nigeria yet I strive hard not to fail myself. I wanted a platform where I can develop myself, I wanted someone or sort of motivation to push me hard. This is more important because procrastination has eaten deep into me and had taken several opportunities away from me.

Then came an on online publicity of CSAAE, calling for application in 2017. I skimmed through the page using the available link. Wow! It got me but as usual, I delayed filling the form, until it was deadline. On that day, I hurriedly sketched an essay

which was required and proceeded to the cyber café to fill the form. Finally it was done.

Few weeks I was interviewed which was successful. My name was shortlisted later on and an acceptance letter was sent via email. To sum it up, I became an



Emerging Nigerian Leader under CSAAE emerging leaders program. Things got different for me at CSAAE. I finally found a platform for change, and self development. The ELP Foundation Conference of 2017 was totally meant for me. The speakers were something else, in fact, I left the event with a new me. Meanwhile, it was a 3 days program and guess what, the accommodations and feeding were taken care of by the Centre.

As if that was not enough, at the mid year summit held in Ilorin, Kwara State, my fellow young Emerging Leaders swept me off my feet with their project presentations. CSAAE it's inception inspires youth to initiate a community development

projects. But the ideas and and accomplishments of these youths were amazingly challenging. I was pushed by this to initiate mine known as Project Know Your Right, which aims at facilitating development through sensitizing and educating primary and secondary school children on the Constitutional and Human rights.

Now at CSAAE, I can air my views and speak on national matters.

I can also be a part of change in Nigeria in my own little unique ways. CSAAE got me detribalized as I got to interact, and make friends with people from different tribes. The Centre has equipped and is still equipping youths including me with ethical leadership skills.

As an ethical leader with integrity, I believe my dreams are not far from actualization as long as CSAAE is still for youths. Aside my academic

pursuits, I believe I can be an influential lady internationally, through the safe spaces CSAAE has provided for youths.

Finally, I thank CSSAAE for providing me with so many spaces which couldn't be mentioned here, through conferences mid-year summit, film viewings, mentorship, travel experiences, Friday webinars and a whole lot.

## Azukaeme Kenneth

The CEO KenKen Builders & Arc Associate Nigeria.

To mark the 2018 world youth day celebration, it is pertinent for me to count every bit of my step, back to the foundation that found me in the course my struggle as an average African youth.

In 2013, luck brought me on the path of hardwork, that I need to make a change that I needed to see. What I suffered in the country which I found myself, pushed me to the wall, that I was ready to follow whosoever that will help me achieve the change I hope to see. A certin Sunday morning came, my roommate gave me a flyer advertising the Emerging Nigerian Leaders Conference (ENLC). Going through the application, my attention was caught on the part that required me to write an essay on what I will do if I become the president of Nigeria. Without waste of time, I attended to it and it got me a place in the CSAAE Emerging Leaders Programme.

I was selected on merit, the very first thing I got on merit in Nigeria, without paying a dime. Only this gave me divine relief, as I started

nursing hope for better today and tomorrow. In school, handling dual programs was a herculean task, in addition to my duty as the head boy among the Emerging leaders, learning how to be a multi-task person was not all that easy, in fact, it made me better person, such that, what I learnt in CSAAE has been put into practice. Building capacity, competence and character grounded in ethical principles are the best things to be desired by any youth, aspiring for a greater future. My encounter with distinguished scholars, elites, benefactors and benefactresses like Godswill Agbagwa, Vincent Arisukwu, James Elekwachi, Bongo Adi, Mrs Abimbola Akintolayo, Prof. BEB Nwoko, Alex Ugwuezonu, Ofo Ezeugwu and many other intellectually packed personalities at the various programs organized by Centre for Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics Incorporated (CSAAE), since 2013 till date, remain a major positive impact, I will always cherish.

Since my membership, I have been able to design a plan on how my

life will be like. Right from school, I took a bold step to put in practice all that I learned from my mentors. The journey for a better African youth, is a revolutionary mission that require having people who



believe in the youth and put all their resources to ensure that they excel, a journey, CSAAE is spareheading.

Through CSAAE, ayouth like me, learned to build trust, be a good team leader and to maintain a relationship with clients, so do other 10,000 and more youth across

Nigeria.

Are you troubled about the present day unemployment, poverty and leadership failure in the country? Then you cannot effect a positive change alone....you really need a

platform like CSAAE, as you could find decent opportunities which can help you build yourself for a better life, Be you a student, an apprentice, entrepreneur, employee, school proprietor, Church leader etc. All you need to do is to follow up on the

website, talk to CSAAE team about your plans what you do and how you would partner to build a better community, local government, State, nations and Africa.

## Muhammad Sani

### Ahmadu Bello University Zaria

**“I can’t wait to leave school, not to join the pool of thousands of Nigerians unemployed, but to create a new niche in the Nigerian Agricultural/Industrial Microbiology sector and employ young people just like myself to work for me.”**

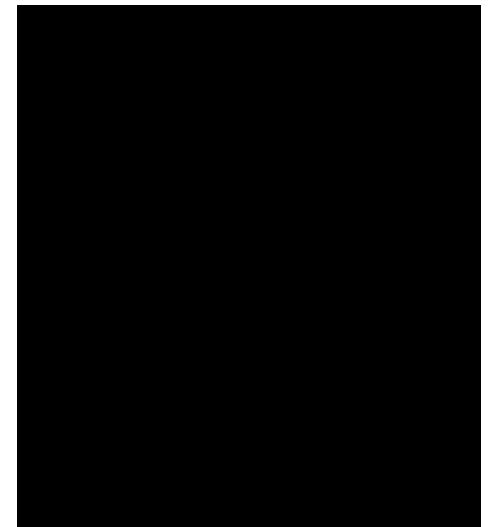
I became concerned about Nigerian back in 2014.

I realized our developmental backwardness, our leaders’ failure, lack of creativity, and laziness that have hindered Nigeria from achieving lot of projections. I was reading International Renown books on Economy, Entrepreneurship, Defence, Agriculture, Conspiracy and a lot genre of books, in so far as it is model, I desire to see the replicated in Nigeria, or better still, how can the lessons recounted in those books be used for Nigeria’s Development?

Even though I am not a fan of politics and policymaking, because of its dirty appearance in the Nigerian populace, I still know that it is among the ways to bring a meaningful Progress and a rapid Development. Since I cannot join politics like our failed leaders did, to get super rich at the expense of the people, those who joined with a good motive but lacking in capacity and ideas to bring a meaningful change, so I needed a different approach, a family to learn from.

Mid-Last year, I came across Call for Applications by Center for Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics Incorporated. (CSAAE) for a three years vigorous Leadership and Entrepreneurial Training. After making my Research about the organization, I concluded that CSAAE is that family through which I will be given a #SafeSpace to build by capacity and become an agent of a Positive change in my community, and so I applied.

I got the Congratulatory Message, followed by a phone interview and an invitation for induction at the Foundation Conference in Ikeja Lagos, that was the first step of achieving my dream. There I got to meet a lot of like minds, youth like me who are passionate about Nigeria’s problem, and CSAAE created a #SafeSpace for us all to discuss and profer solutions to the problems. Such as having a Community Development Project (CDP) for my community, attaining personal development goals for building myself and my big dreams, all thanks to the assistance offered by CSAAE mentors.



I Joined CSAAE less than a year, but the #SafeSpace CSAAE has given me, brough me in contact with like minds, mentors, development consultants, through our weekly webinars, mid- year leadership and entrepreneurial summit, yearly foundational conference, community development projects and one-on-one mentorship, all these are second to none. The Center For Social Awareness Advocacy and Ethics Incorporated (CSAAE) has of course given me a #SafeSpace that has built me to be a positive change agent in my community.

# Tagbo Ijeoma

*Federal University of Owerri, FUTO*

**“At the Centre’s Mid-Year Summit, I also learned about project sustainability, accountability, feedback mechanism and how to make a good presentation using the power-point.”**

Growing up as a child, I have always wanted to air my views, share my ideas and improve my personal efficiency.

The journey began, one faithful morning, when I got a message from Uwaleme Panteleon on the 2017 emerging African leaders call for application about the essay on the Nigeria of my dream.

I grabbed the opportunity and applied, Guess what!! My name was among the first 50 applicants to attend the 2017 Emerging African Leaders Foundation Conference held in Lagos State.

Before now, I lacked a very potential skill like effective time management, presentation skills amongst others. There came a new dawn that was the Mid-year Summit held in Kwara State. Where I got the opportunity to

learn about different projects being executed by Emerging Nigerian leaders which involved solving problems in their various community and finding a career path in the 21st century.

It will shock you to know that these young minds are within the age range of (17-25) years. I also learned about project sustainability, accountability, feedback mechanism and how to make a good presentation using the power-point.

The Centre for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics (CSAAE) has been one of the best things that ever happened to me since the year 2017. Training me to be the best version of myself through book reading session, one on one mentoring program and a Community Development Project through which, I am addressing the active participation of females in



leadership and governance.

The Centre for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics (CSAAE) is creating a physical and available (safe) space for all youths in Africa. Remember that whatever you do in time should always be linked to what you want to achieve in time.

# Onyeulor Paul

*Department of Mathematics, UNIJOS*

## WHAT A JOURNEY WITH CSAAEINC!

*“I have been able to build to an extent focus and dedication towards the common good, passion towards what is right and commitment to personal development unto rewriting the wrongs of our fathers in Nigeria and Africa at large.”*

I cannot explain the feeling I had during my first CSAAEINC Foundation conference, it was simply wow! It was a change the whole world kind of experience and then I asked myself. So a better Nigeria is still possible? A Nigeria where the leaders think more of the people than themselves, a Nigeria where all can live with dignity and the gap between the rich and then poor would be minimal, a Nigeria where the common man can afford at least 2 square meals a day. These were the things I had given up on; in fact I could categorize myself amongst Nigerians that had given up on the country. But, hey, here came hope, funny enough I did not just see it but I felt it deep inside of me. CSAAE brought hope.

After spending a few months under CSAAE, my campus was saddled with the responsibility of organizing the 2017 mid-year summit and within this time I acquired organizational skills through arrangements for resource persons, preparing for all the emerging African Leaders that would be hosted, organizing for

the halls and hotel to be used and many others. It was one hell of an experience but what I gained from it cannot be quantified.

Furthermore, I embarked on a Community Development Project titled COR from which I have been able to reach out to a key problem bedeviling the today's youth breed in Nigeria. A project that aims at rejuvenating the reading culture in Nigeria youths.

Finally, CSAAE has brought me in contact with people that I might not have had the opportunity to meet ordinarily. I was assigned a mentor by name, Mr. Uzo Onyemaechi who is a Librarian with the Montgomery County Public Libraries in the state of Maryland, he has been a source of inspiration to me, my studies, my project and also my vision.

This is what being in CSAAE in less than 3 years have availed me; I wonder what is to come. I have been able to build to an extent focus and dedication towards the common good, passion towards what is right and commitment to personal development unto



rewriting the wrongs of our fathers in Nigeria and Africa at large. I am blessed to be a part of this family. CSAAEINC, my bridge.

# Alex Val Momoh

*Department of Agricultural Science, University of Benin,*

**“CSAAE taught me how to give to my community. I have a community development project that is helping send kids from vulnerable homes back to school.”**

I will never forget Rev. Fr. Jonas of the Archdiocese of Benin City. His sermon almost every Sunday condemning the ills in our society, especially in the political scene, gingered my desire to want to go into politics in the future and contribute my quota to the betterment of my fellow countrymen and women.

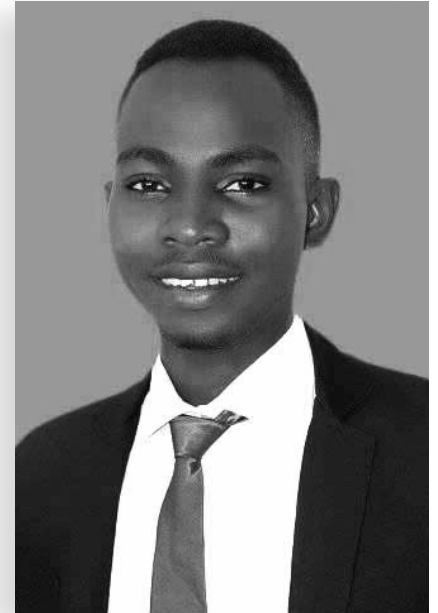
However, there was a problem. How do I make this move? Who do I know? Are there people like me that really want the right thing done for our country? Is it even possible? Even if there are people, how do I get to join them? These questions reduced my zeal but I still held on because I believed that if there is a WILL there will be a WAY.

Few years down the lane I came to know about CSAAE through a friend (EAL Davidson). I applied and I got in. I felt this acceptance

into a family, a family of love. I started seeing the answers to my questions and the possibilities of my dream coming through. I started seeing my SPACE! CSAAE has continually empowered me in several ways. They are committed to seeing my big dream of becoming the ‘servants’ -leader’ coming to reality.

CSAAE taught me how to give to my community. I have a community development project-Project Send a Child to School, which is aimed at helping send to school kids that are vulnerable.

The project is teaching me a lot and I am happy to be a part of it. CSAAE also assisted my education by granting me a scholarship. They are ever committed to seeing that we are educationally comfortable because the future belongs to the



educated.

Some of my friends are beginning to see the light that Nigeria will be great again for there is hope. This makes me happy and thanks to CSAAE!

## John Joel Buana

**“The leadership skills I have learned in CSAAE will enable me to take on leadership responsibilities at various levels.”**

As a young person growing up, I had a passion for leadership. But I knew within me I have not developed the necessary leadership skills and qualities that can make me a better leader. I wanted to learn and grow in leadership. So I became interested in anything leadership; be it a book, seminar, workshop, training etc.

In 2014, I joined CSAAE’s Emerging

leaders program. Through the series of programs and training of the Centre, I have developed the capacities, competencies, and character for effective leadership. The annual foundation conferences have given me the opportunity to listen and learn from great and experienced leaders in the country. It has also given me the privilege of interacting and discussing with



other young people from across the country with different backgrounds. Through the Centre, I have learned that I do not need a title to become a leader. We were inspired to take on projects that will make an impact in our communities. The mid-year summits have enabled me to learn of ways I can make an impact in my

community through the comments and suggestions on my community development project. There are tasks usually given to us with deadlines at the Centre, this has built in me the attitude of planning and action-orientation.

The leadership skills I have learned

in CSAAE will enable me to take on leadership responsibilities at various levels. I really appreciate CSAAE for providing a safe space, through the Emerging leader's program, for me to learn and grow into an effective African leader.

## Alex Queeneth

College of Education, Obudu

***“I can't wait to leave school, not to join the pool of thousands of Nigerians unemployed, but to create a new niche in the Nigerian Agricultural/Industrial Microbiology sector and employ young people just like myself to work for me.”***

My name is Nwoko Queeneth Ugochi, a 300 level student of Chemistry/Biology at Federal College of Education Obudu Cross River State.

Who could have imagined that timidity and shyness could be curbed out in a twinkle of an eye? I was a shy and over-dependent type of person. I found it so hard to associate, make friends, talk in public and sometimes, even answer questions in class. I always took solace in being alone, and allowing people to say or rather guess my mind.

I had trouble leaving my parents or my comfort zone to travel anywhere but school.

The people I interacted with were family and family-affiliated friends. I never really knew who I was or what I could do but I was sure that

there was a fire burning in me to do better.

That was until 2016 when I heard of CSAAE from a sister during its 2016 call for application. I challenged myself into writing the essay and getting accepted because I wanted to do something for the betterment of my country and harness the potentials in me.

In CSAAE, I was taken as a family. I met people from different background and great minds.

Do you know what Csaaeinc has turned me into now? It has made me first realize that I can really offer something that others could not. It gave me the boldness that I never thought I could have.

I can now initiate a conversation with my peers and those in higher authorities. I can now express



myself anywhere and anytime. I say wow to this!. I was given the opportunity to travel to places that I never would have been to Lagos, Ilorin, Jos etc. Seriously, Csaaeinc is a life saver, the automatically turned my life around.

# Ishola Kayode

CEO, Digprom.com

**“ I was assigned a mentor who is an I.T professional in New Jersey, U.S.A. Mr. Ustyne Oliver Nwankwo. He guided me towards succeeding at the Centre as well as inspiring me to launch my startup (Digprom). ”**

Four years ago, I saw a call for entries for a youth development program by an American-Nigerian Nonprofit. The notice required that I write an article on ‘What I can do for Nigeria’ as a youth.

I swiftly went into action and coincidentally submitted the application on the day it was meant to close. Four weeks after, I got a call from the Center’s to headquarter in Maryland U.S and was further drilled based on what I wrote in the article. I was selected for the 3 years development and mentorship program.

I had the opportunity of exploring my potentials, traveling around and meeting young people like me who are making giant strides in their communities. I was assigned a mentor who is a founder of a reputable I.T firm in New Jersey, US. Mr Ustyne Oliver. He guided me towards succeeding at the centre as well as inspiring me to launch my startup (Digprom).

These opportunities have impacted

me and given me the push towards striving and achieving my goals. CSAAE has been a huge support for the lucky ones whose lives have been impacted through their programs. This year’s June when the Midyear summit was held in the University of Ilorin, I was chosen by the centre as a resource person and speaker. I had the opportunity of sharing with my audience how the centre led by Rev. Fr. Godswill Agbagwa supported me and my team in launching Digprom. I also had the opportunity of networking with other speakers who mostly came from the United States and the U.K.

How can I forget my CSAAE buddies, the likes of Igwe Chibuzor Priscilia (The energetic and creative lady at CSAAE), Valentine Momoh, Ekwonu Francisca Chinelo, Uwaleme Pantaleon (Our First ELP president) and other creative and intelligent Nigerian Youths I met through CSAAE...?

Today being the International Youth Day, I want to use this opportunity to celebrate this wonderful



organization and the people behind this for deeming it fit to invest in me and hundreds of youths across Africa. Their efforts and support are changing lives and building Africa. They are building people to build nations.

Finally, I would like to encourage my fellow youths to keep striving towards achieving their goals. The road may be rough but let’s keep the hope alive. Let’s network and encourage one another. The best and most viable way of keeping

# ENL Maryam Omowunmi Umar

**“I believe CSAAE is just the perfect platform to help youths develop and build potentials, I, for instance is undergoing through this building process.”**

I was not the outspoken type of person, neither was I the social type of girl, though I had a passion for leadership, to effecting change in my society and nation at large especially in the aspect of health, children health in particular, I really did not know how exactly to go about this.

I really admired those who have been able to establish a platform to accomplish their dreams and always longed for an opportunity also not until I got this wonderful platform, CSAAE, which is just the perfect opportunity I have always looked forward to, to bring my dreams alive.

CSAAE has inspired me in diverse ways, just for the little period of time I have been opportune to be a part of this great organization, on the 26th Nov, 2017, I attended the Foundation Conference at Lagos, it was mind blowing really, getting to sit under the speech of great and influential people which got me

very motivated and encouraged that indeed, there can be leaders of change from amongst the emerging leaders.

The career-building and entrepreneurship program and



mid-year summit at Ilorin, Kwara state, gave me a better and clearer view about my Community Development Project (CDP)

tagged ‘Combating Malnutrition in Children’ which gave me the confidence to forge ahead and take better and more creative steps towards achieving my goals and dreams. I was greatly challenged by the some other CDPs of ENLs and EALS, this motivated me to make my CDP better.

I was also privileged to get a full grasp of mentorship from the founder of the Organization, Rev. Fr. Godswill Agbagwa, Rev. Fr. Vincent Arisukwu and from the staff and advisers of CSAAE which has ever since kept me going.

I believe CSAAE is just the perfect platform to help youths develop and build potentials, I, for instance is undergoing through this building process.

# Nancy Uzor

Department of Education, College of Education, Obudu

**“I can’t wait to leave school, not to join the pool of thousands of Nigerians unemployed, but to create a new niche in the Nigerian Agricultural/Industrial Microbiology sector and employ young people just like myself to work for me.”**

My name is Uzor Nancy Soromtochi, a 300 level student of the department Education/English Language at Federal College of Education Obudu in Affiliation with the University of Calabar, Calabar. Permit me to share with you my CSAAE safe space story. Where do I begin from? Well, it’s been a long and exciting journey. 2013 is one of those years I don’t think I will forget in a hurry. Before then, I was not actually doing badly. I was doing great, so I thought, until I encountered CSAAE.

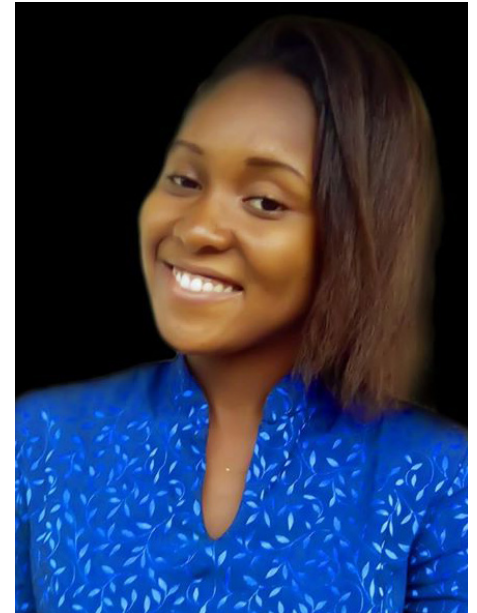
I heard about the Centre from a family friend, Rev. Fr. Vincent Arisikwu. He gave a group of siblings details about the Cfentre, but I guess, it was only myself who particularly picked interest and applied thinking it was a competition. Fortunately, I was selected out of the many that applied. When I arrived the conference venue at the Star Arrivals Hotel in Owerri, I realized it was not a competition but a mission of people with one

vision. The first meeting was more to me like a retreat, which marked the beginning of this exciting and fulfilled life I now live

Before CSAAE, I used to think I was the only youth around who sought for more for myself and the society. At the centre, I then found like minds and even greater ones. Along the three years journey of mentorship in the Emerging (African) Leaders’ Program (ELP), the centre had made me discover the true me. I have always desired a better Nigeria and Africa at large but for some reasons I cannot get hold of, I did not want to start something first, I was afraid of getting out of my comfort zone.

Then I encountered CSAAE and there came this spark within me. I saw myself doing a whole lot of things my old self could not do. With CSAAE, I have a new me.

Within 2013 and now, I have planned and executed several CSAAE related projects, gotten



administrative training as an intern at the centre and even saved my education with the scholarship awarded to me by her. What more can I say? With CSAAE, I got all I needed to be successful in life and make positive impact wherever I find myself.

This is my story so far!

# Godstime Osahon Ige

*University of Benin*

**“Through the help of my mentor, Dr. Patrick Nwakama and others at the Centre, I have been able to engage youths in my community consistently through my Career Path Initiative.”**

As the world celebrates the international youth day, I sat to ponder on all the people/things that have played a major role in shaping me to become the youth that I am today. Amidst this, one recurrent entity was the Centre for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics Inc. (CSAAE). Permit me to share my CSAAE safe space story with you.

I still recall vividly just like yesterday, how I became a part of this organization during my 100level days at the University of Benin. The story is a long one but the summary is that I was privileged to be among the 25 young undergraduate Nigerians selected for a three (3) years mentorship program at the center in 2014 and I cannot express or quantify how this has really changed my life for the better.

Prior to joining the organization, I was the typical Nigerian who would drink sachet water and throw the litters into the gutter only to complain of how inept our government was when it rained, and the place becomes flooded. I was also that Nigerian who believed everything was about money without paying attention to community service. I believed that for one to be a leader especially in this country of ours where

corruption was rewarded with executive positions in government, one had to be like them.

My few years at CSAAE has changed this perspective and I can say though I haven't started yet, I am no longer where I used to be or how I used



to think. Through the help of my mentor, Dr Patrick Nwakama and others at the centre, I have been able to engage youths in my community consistently through my Career Path initiative. The business and leadership skills acquired at the centre through the likes of Bongo Adi, of the Lagos Business school has enabled me to represent my faculty effectively at the level of the students' union government for

three (3) consecutive times. Not also forgetting the wise words of Mr. James Elekwachi, a Chevening scholar and mentor at CSAAE, that has seen me been awarded several scholarships including the Chevron undergraduate scholarship award. The list is endless as I can only be grateful to this organization that has afforded me the opportunity to maximize my talent.

I have been granted a lifetime membership into the network of effective African leaders at the centre and I have found like minds in this organization that are ready to explore all options and contributes their quota to the development of this Nation. Africa and Nigeria will surely be a better place if we as youths shun social & moral vices, ignore get-rich-quick schemes and embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship, social justice and equity which are the core values of CSAAE.

Together we can make Africa and indeed Nigeria a better place.

# Amarachi Chukwu

*“From the day I joined CSAAE, I was nurtured on moral and ethical values which have been of help to me today.”*



My name is Chukwu Amarachi Peace, an Emerging African leader, studied Education/Economics, a serving corp member. I joined CSAAE in 2013 after some rigorous processes of the interview. But before then, I am the type of person that like procrastination, not knowing or minding the consequences.

When I attended the annual CSAAE foundation conference, listened to the speakers and mentors, I realized that procrastination can cost someone's life and as an emerging leader, it can hinder one from

attaining a certain level in life. Now I have learned to “eat that frog”, stop procrastinating and get more done in less time.

CSAAE has turned me into a Motivational speaker. Come to talk of speaking in public places outside the classroom environment, I hardly do that but today I have been invited to so many events/programs as a motivational speaker.

During the mid-year summits, we were exposed to so many community development projects (CDP) which one can engage in. At first, I thought of writing a book but later realized that writing a book will not make much impact in my community. Then I chose “career choice”.

Carrying out my community development project on career choice has widened my horizon. I talk to youths, go to secondary schools to enlighten the students on the need to make a good career choice and to make a good choice of course of study in the University. If not for my CDP, I would not

have known that there are other insignificant courses one can study in the University and I would not have done that if not for CSAAE and I know that my community has benefited from it.

CSAAE has exposed me to so many life-changing opportunities both local and international, and leadership building experiences. I have come across so many individuals in this country which I never dreamt of seeing if not for CSAAE and this has been of help to me to air my views on issues concerning this country which I know ordinarily, nobody would have noticed or listened to me.

CSAAE has really provided a safe space for me. From the day I joined CSAAE, I was nurtured on moral and ethical values which have been of help to me today. My story today without CSAAE is incomplete. I thank CSAAE for providing a safe space for me through Emerging leaders foundation conferences and mid-year summits.

## About CSAAE

Years of ineffective leadership, corruption, poor entrepreneurial spirit and lack of commitment to common good have led to underdevelopment and massive poverty in Africa. In order for Africa to make progress and ensure that its people can enjoy a better quality of life, the continent needs a new generation of leaders who can fast-track development and end poverty in Africa. With youth under the age of 25 comprising 60 percent of the population, much of the hope for Africa's future lies in its young people. They are the agents of change and stakeholders in a better Africa



Launched in 2013, CSAAE is dedicated to harnessing the potential of young people and providing the kinds of tools and trainings that endow them with the capacities, competencies and character necessary to sustain themselves, create opportunities that help others sustain themselves and embrace their roles as critical actors in building a better Africa. CSAAE is registered as a non-profit organization in Nigeria and a 501(c)(3) in the United States.

The Founder, Reverend Father Godswill Agbagwa grew up in Nigeria. While studying abroad as a college student, he was struck by the contrasts he saw between the levels of poverty and underdevelopment in Nigeria compared to Western countries he visited. That experience became the genesis for CSAAE, its programs, and the core values at the foundation of his work, which include:

Accountability. Accepting responsibility for one's activities and in a transparent manner.

Solidarity. A commitment to the common good.

Integrity. Being honest and fair.

Creativity. Thinking and actualizing new ideas.

Punctuality. Being prompt and following through on commitments.

CSAAE focuses, in an integrated way, on four programmatic areas designed to channel young people into activities that develop leaders of character; cultivate a spirit of entrepreneurship; promote good governance, transparency, and accountability in government; and encourage mentorship among youth. Though distinct in their areas of focus, they share the common goal of creating positive social, economic and political change one youth at a time.

The Center's longest standing program is the Emerging African Leaders Program (ELP) launched in 2013 to prepare youth for positions in public service that are critical to development including political, media, religious, business and judicial leaders. Graduates of ELP form a Network of Effective African Leaders (NEAL) with one goal of taking over the leadership of Africa for good. Under the guidance of the Centre, Effective Leaders run for offices, serve in government, shape public policies and launch enterprises that enhance the greater good for Africa. They bear on each other on good governance, mentor emerging leaders and champion social impact projects in Africa.

Its Career Building and Entrepreneurship Program (CBEP) began in 2014 and engages youth in discussions about career direction while helping them navigate three paths from college to career: entering the workforce, pursuing a graduate degree, or starting a business. These youths in turn commit to using their careers to enhance the greater good for Africa.

The Youth Ethics and Anticorruption Program (YEAP) launched in 2016 seeks to raise the consciousness of youth to the importance of transparency, human rights and accountability in the work world while teaching them how to identify, resist and fight corruption hindering development in Africa.