



NAME: Gladys Wanjeri Gachoka

AGE: 17

EMAIL: gachokagladys@gmail.com

AKAD- GAP YEAR MENTORSHIP 2017

When I attended my second AKAD seminar, I can say I felt more at home. I had expectations and was not disappointed as all of them were met. The session was held at MOW Sports Club on January 26, 2017 and began at exactly 9.00am. Rev. Dr. Julius Weche started us off bringing life into the room as always and we all stated our expectations. He emphasized on the value of time and truly time is money that cannot afford to be wasted or misused.



**Rev. Dr.
Julius
Weche**

He then gave the floor to Erick Kimonyi, the founder of Students Beyond Classroom Initiative that enriches college students with soft and professional skills. He invited the peer mentors, two gentlemen and four ladies, to share with us their experiences which were captivating and enlightening. I learnt a lot especially that one is never too young to make a change as most of them were fourth year students at the Technical

University of Kenya (TUK) and one a second year student. All were in a position of leadership and had made a significant impact on the society. They shared what they had overcome to get to where they are right now.

Erick Kimonyi then spoke to us telling us how it was not easy at first and he had to face failure once or twice but it was a stepping stone to success. This just proves that one should not be afraid of failing as long as you do not give up and be persist with your own goals. He has inspired many including myself to be the best version of me. He exhibits what success looks like; neat, smart, and bold. It is because of this that many doors have been opened in his life. He also demonstrated the value of good presentation so that you can capture the attention of others.



Erick Kimonyi

Rev. Dr. Julius Weche stressed on the importance of always looking good especially when making connections with people to create your own network to your advantage. To

always look sharp is very important because we are all brands. Establishing networks is a key way to success. He clearly quoted “My network is my net worth”, a phrase that should stick in the heads of those ready to succeed. No one can be a one man island if they want to go far in life.

We were served tea and snacks and given the opportunity to interact with the peer mentors and learn more about each other. I personally got to know an incredible lady, who has not been deterred by her past to accomplish what she has today, Miss Harriet Gesare. After learning more about each other, Dr. Weche told us to share with the rest of the group our newly added knowledge about the person/people we had interacted with. This was a great learning experience as most of us ended up giving answers that were wrong for the question asked. I doubt anyone will make that mistake again. Always think critically before jumping into a conclusion that you have the right answer.

He also taught us the importance of good pitching in a limited amount of time. He put some of us on the spot to nearly face total humiliation but at the end of the day it actually improved our skills. He also brought out the fact that we should make ourselves great now and not wait for anyone else, organization or even the government to come to our rescue.

I can truly say that my time at the seminar was very well spent with great people of great minds. I will definitely put into practice the skills I have acquired and look forward to more development with AKAD.

Nobody succeeds beyond his or her wildest expectations unless he or she begins with some wild expectations.

