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Mentoring Future Engineers 2017

One should never give up in climbing a stepping stone however slippery and difficult it may be. When one reaches the top is when they realize they are far much better than before. But reaching the top requires well planned strategies and technical know-how to propel him or her to the top. This was the reason why I attended the Mentoring Future Engineers seminar. I wanted to familiarize myself with the various skills that would help me to become a better, productive and reliable member of the society. I needed to know more about team-building, self-initiative, negotiation skills, confidence building, general self presentation and profile writing. I also anticipated to know more about engineering as a major technical and technological field that is widespread in human life.

I got the opportunity of its own kind to interact with my peers who have great visions ahead of them and are working hard to achieve their dreams. It was interesting meeting people who are ready for positive change in the society, people who are reliable, self-confident and admirable.



Julie Gichuru poses for a photo with several AKAD mentees

It was my first time to meet Citizen TV's renowned journalist, Julie Gichuru. She was open to everyone easy to interact with. She emphasized the importance of investing in STEM subjects as the country needs more personnel in the field of science and technology. She also explained how self awareness is essential in determining ones future. Her most memorable words being the question, "Who am I? Am I who I am?". I learnt how engines operate from the mechanical engineering department on our tour in the college. I realized how pistons operate in propelling the camshaft and the crankshaft and how the latter brings about movement of

a vehicle. It was amazing to find out that ethics and life skills as they are guidelines that ensure co-existence in any given working environment.

Engineer Albert Mugo's words were all inspiring and captivating. He emphasized on



Engineer Albert Mugo shares a word with Effie and AKAD mentees

setting a strong foundation in a youth's life in order to become a stronger and reliable member of the society. There are still more areas in our technological world that are still incomplete until the young generation comes up with new ideas and technologideologies that would foresee an improvement in the general civilization of human life. This was also emphasized strongly by Engineer Albert Mugo. He insisted that the youth should come up with new ways of solving problems that are at hand including environmental pollution, desertification and food insecurity. He explained

how the youth have more opportunities and more ease of technologically transforming the world and scaling it to better heights.

Mr. Kimonyi fulfilled my needs of better public speaking skills. He described fully how to present oneself when speaking to a public meeting or during an interview. I got to learn how to shake hands formally and with a show of respect. He explained how to use nonverbal cues in public communication. He went further to explain how some hand gestures are unnecessary when addressing a gathering. Personal grooming such as wearing a suit and keeping ones hair tidy was among his pivotal points in effective public speaking and in an interview.



Mr. Kimonyi with AKAD mentees

The tour to the Kenya Power substation and to the mechanical and electrical engineering departments gave me a wider outlook of how mechanical and electrical machines work together to achieve the same purpose of Kenya Power, power supply. The llive experience with the machines and equipment gave me an opportunity to explore the opportunities and probabilities of developing my idea fully in my quest to end air pollution.

I understood more about how to write my personal profile and how I should work hard to make it better. Indeed the seminar was worth commemoration. The friends I met were always open to me and that gave me an opportunity to evaluate myself before and after the seminar. I found myself better than before and this compelled me to write; if you can not realize you are better than yesterday, my friend you are heading nowhere.