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# ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SESSION 2018 TESTIMONIAL

“Think global, act local”

For some reason or two these words were left echoing in my mind as I walked home from what is so far the most interesting experience of my 2018. Being my second AKAD event, right from the beginning of my day I knew that I would really be challenged and motivated from the speakers of the day, but still somehow, the whole event surpassed my expectations.

The admissions and scholarships session begun with some team building activities led by Miss Martha Wakise, having been familiar with some of the activities, I was fully psyched for them and just as I expected, by the end of those activities we all pretty much felt like we knew each other. We later on went back to the venue of the forum where we were properly welcomed by Rev Dr Julius Weche, whose sense of humor catered for the perfect welcome.

We then had a session where a few AKAD mentees got to share their views on what they think are the values of mentorship. It is in this session where we also got to hear of their very inspirational stories and this only reinforced why mentorship is truly very valuable in this day and age. This session really made me think of my own journey of mentorship and whether I had really given it the seriousness it deserved, because I realized that having the right mentor only helped us make the right moves that we should make that we would otherwise spend most of our time avoiding since they probably had already been down that road before and are well versed with its challenges. We then broke for tea where we got the chance to network and have a brief one on one with some of these outstanding individuals.

In the next session we got to have an interactive session led by some AKAD mentees who had gotten admissions to some of the top universities in the world. These included; Josphat lowoi a recent graduate of the African Leadership Academy in South Africa and has just gained admission and scholarship into Duke University in the United States of America. Josphat shared his very inspirational story, which although I had heard before, was still as thought-provoking as the first time. We also heard from Francis wahome who is also a scholar at the Africa Leadership University in Rwanda. His story ,though he claimed wasn’t very prestigious, was very challenging as he shared how he was able to work for four different companies, one of which was his own and was still able to juggle his education, where he was at the time doing a bachelor in economics before forgoing it to join the African Leadership University. We also heard from two other mentees who shared their stories of how AKAD was able to shape them and help them position themselves in a position to get the scholarships they now have to top universities around the world.

This day was also a very proud day for AKAD since one of their very own, ad also one of the guest speakers for the day was being featured on national TV to discuss issues concerning millennials and whether or not they are ambitious. Seeing Michael on TV was such a proud moment and really gave me a lot of thoughts and this was later on added to, after Dr. Weche posed a question of whether or not we have positioned ourselves at a position to be featured on TV just like Michael. We, however, weren’t able to watch the entire interview so we went on with the interactive session where the mentees basically shared their experiences with AKAD and with Daktari, after which we got to broke for lunch, or as I like to call it, the networking break.

After the break we got to hear from the very learned, very passionate and very inspiring Professor Mugendi .K. M’Rithaa who is an industrial designer. I could speak for hours on what his presentation was about but I could properly sum it up in

“Challenge your thinking”

He got to share some of the project he has been involved in, in the bid to make Africa better, and trust me, the projects weren’t few. Prof. Mugendi basically showed us the impact that thinking without a box could have on Africa and challenged us as millennials to dare to do more. Afterwards, we now got to hear from Michael, who spoke about the African Leadership University and what it sets out to do as in institution out to challenge the traditional education system and basically shared the vision of the founder, Dr. Fred Swaniker and what inspired him to start the institution. Michal and Catherine later on presided over an intriguing question and answer session.

Over and above everything else, the one thing I took home is, you don’t have to be extraordinary to do extraordinary things. You just have to be a solution finder, rather being the one who is constantly pointing out the problem and doing nothing about it. This forum left me very eager to get out there to be a solution to the world and I have AKAD to thank for that.