

America is filled with opportunities and it is up to the individuals to seize the opportunities that come their way. My name is Adeola Seidi-Gbamuse, I want to go to college because I feel the need to be educated. I wish to become an Electrical Engineer and the only way to do so is by going to a college/university and completing a degree in this field. Finding out about H.E.S.U.S. Fund Inc is another opportunity that has come my way and I intend to make the best of it.

I wish to be an engineer because I wish to help all those around and those faraway from me. I have been to West Africa, Nigeria, to be precise, and I lived there for almost four years. While I was in Nigeria many things happened, one of which was experiencing life without power (electricity). In Nigeria there is no stable electricity therefore you do not have the opportunity to watch movies, go on the internet, or even read a book at night whenever you wish to do so. In Nigeria, you make use of the sunlight to its fullest potential because there might not be light at night. Several times during a movie with the family there would be a sudden loss of power right at the best part. Due to the suspense from the movie and unexpected loss of power everyone would shout in disappointment and enthusiasm despite the fact they had been living like this their whole lives from childhood to adulthood.

Due to Nigeria's location in a tropical region, during the rainy season there is heavy rainfall and I remember June 4, 2004 as the big boom. On that day, there was power yet it was raining heavily and everyone was happy because it was the second day in a row that there had been power. With the power up and rain outside people sat comfortably in their homes not expecting the following incident. The transformer providing power to the neighborhood blew out and the big boom echoed, shaking homes. The cause

of this was that the transformer was not protected. Water from the heavy rainfall had damaged the transformer and for about three to four months, there was no power. No running water, no television, no Internet, not even power to charge your cell phone. Those who had generators made use of them once or twice a week but not many people could afford generators.

That day and the months that followed made me wonder why this had happened, and then, why it would take so long for the community to be provided with another transformer. The answer was a lack of leadership. Nigeria is a great country with massive natural resources -- swampland, forestation, rivers, grassland and much more -- but the Government does nothing. High officials do what they must in order to feed themselves and no one else.

This incident made me think about leadership more generally. I asked my brother what type of leader I was and he said he did not know. He told me some people are born leaders and some are not, he said leaders lead by example and rise to the occasion and that the people around you will tell you if you're a good leader or not. I want to be a great leader and the road that I am taking to accomplish this goal is through electrical engineering.

I have been with the All Stars Project for about two years, and I have participated in both the Development School for Youth (DSY) and The All Stars Talent Show. I graduated from the DSY in the fall of 2008. It was a wonderful experience visiting various corporate environments. I finally saw one of those long brown tables with up to twelve black leather chairs with the view, the ocean in the background and the air-conditioning on full blast, with all types of fruit & bottled water on the side; not to mention the Lays chips. I often thought to myself "...If I grow to be a leader in America, will my office be this big?" Ernst & Young, New York & Company, Source

Media, Latham & Watkins, JP Morgan Chase; these are all corporations the DSY took students to, helping the youth to grow and learn. The Latham & Watkins workshop was one of the best workshops. Playing as a lawyer was very interesting and fun. The Development School for Youth brought those things I used to see only in movies to the screen before my eyes, which was reality, the reality that hard work and dedication can take you as far as you are willing to go and sometimes further.

As a member of the All Stars Talent Show Tech Crew, I helped in many ways: as a tape runner, with audience control, as a bathroom monitor, staff coordinator, even as a stagehand (behind the scenes). Now, I mainly focus on the stagehand aspect. I'm being a leader by volunteering and helping in the production of the show. Leading by example is what I can do best so I help out however I can. From going early to our storage space (around 6am - 7am in the morning), to taking the equipment back to storage after the show, it is an all day job and I do it for free because I know the value it brings to those kids that get a chance to go on stage and perform.

Currently the DSY has fulfilled their part of placing graduated students in paid internships over the summer and I am one of them. I have been placed in Emigrant Savings Bank to shadow the engineering staff so I can be assisted in fulfilling my goals of becoming an electrical engineer. So far so good, I have been enjoying my internship and learning a lot from the staff. I think the rest of the summer will be an experience for me to remember.

I will be attending City University of New York, New York City College of Technology in September of 2009 majoring in Electrical Engineering. The Development School for Youth has provided me with essential leadership skills such as public speaking, knowledge of corporate

attire, and being punctual. By volunteering in the All Stars Talent Show Network, I continue to use what I have gained from different aspects of life to become a better leader. Although I did grow fond of the different lifestyle I had while I was in Nigeria, accomplishing my goal of attending college and becoming an Electrical Engineer will allow me to be a better leader both here in America and also in Nigeria. Opportunities like H.E.S.U.S. Fund can help me reach my goals in college and help me accomplish my career goal of being an engineer and a better equipped Leader. Thank You!