

THE DRIVE REPORT

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Drive to Inspire
Africa

June 2025



Drive to Inspire - Africa has now reached six out of the sixteen regions in Ghana with its outreach activities. With our second year anniversary approaching in July, we have taken yet another step towards giving young people an opportunity to be exposed to interacting with professionals and arming them with information needed to make informed career decisions and also to open their minds to all that is available to them.

Top News

- DTIA Embarks on Its First Outreach to the Ashanti Region
- DTIA Partners with FirstBank Ghana for Financial Literacy Webinar
- DTIA's Spotlight Africa celebrates Nigeria's Odunayo Eweniyi
- Volunteer of the Month: Dr. Kofi Nyarko-Pong picks

Passionate about
helping young
people?

Then sign up to be
a volunteer!



Get in touch to become a
volunteer!

06/25

Webinar: Financial Literacy

Financial discipline is one of the many things young people struggle with, yet it has the power to shape their entire lives.

To help young people make informed financial decisions early, we partnered with **FirstBank Ghana** to host a webinar on the topic "Foundations for Building a Strong Financial Future."

Ms. Catherine Ekar, Head of Private Banking and Wealth Management at FirstBank Ghana, delivered the session. She shared practical strategies that young people can use to gain control of their money, build healthy financial habits, and plan effectively for the future. The webinar empowered participants to take charge of their finances with confidence.



Ms. Catherine Ekar

Volunteer Spotlight



Dr. Kofi Nyarko-Pong

Dr. Kofi Nyarko-Pong is a medical doctor, business executive, and strategic leader whose journey reflects a unique blend of clinical excellence, entrepreneurial drive, and a deep passion for service. After years of dedicated medical practice, he transitioned into business, where he built expansive health and wellness networks across Africa.

Today, as Chief Operations Officer of the Africa Prosperity Network, he oversees high-impact initiatives that advance Africa's economic integration and shared prosperity.

He holds an Executive MBA in Finance, graduating as Valedictorian, and possesses deep expertise in digital finance, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. He is also an alumnus of the prestigious Aspen Leadership Seminar at the University of Oxford, where he proudly represented Ghana.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Nyarko-Pong is deeply committed to giving back. As a volunteer with Drive to Inspire - Africa, he lends his voice, time, and experience to empower young people across the country. A natural mentor and inspirational speaker, he brings clarity, purpose, and warmth to every engagement, reminding others that leadership begins with service. His global outlook, shaped by meaningful engagements across more than 40 countries, reflects a steadfast commitment to ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusive growth. At the intersection of medicine, finance, and continental transformation, he embodies global citizenship grounded in compassion, purpose, and impact.

Outreach – Ashanti Region of Ghana



KNUST SHS

KNUST Senior High School marked our first outreach visit in the Ashanti Region. During the visit, our Founder, Nana Adjoa Hackman, delivered the keynote address, where she encouraged students to invest in their personal growth and work towards becoming key contributors to the Africa we all envision. She introduced them to Steve Bartlett's "buckets" concept, which highlights the need to balance three essential areas of life: academics, personal development, and relationships.

Nana Adjoa explained that focusing only on academic success, while neglecting self-growth and meaningful connections, leads to an incomplete and unsustainable path. She challenged students to think beyond grades and invest equally in building strong character and positive relationships.

Personnel from the Ghana Armed Forces shared a message on self-discipline, encouraging students to plan well, stay focused, and think long-term.

Students were exposed to real-world career paths, including law, health, media, IT, education, and more. Each session provided practical guidance and honest conversations to help students gain clarity and confidence in shaping their future.



Outreach – Ashanti Region of Ghana



Like KNUST, we had an incredible session with students at Osei Kyeretwie Senior High School (OKESS). The keynote address was delivered by our Founder, Nana Adjoa Hackman, who urged students to focus on developing themselves by drawing on Steve Bartley's "five buckets", a concept that encourages personal growth across multiple areas of life.

She explained that true success goes beyond academic achievement. It requires young people to be intentional about who they are becoming mentally and emotionally.

By investing in all five buckets, students can grow into well-rounded individuals who are not only capable but grounded and prepared for life beyond school.

As part of the outreach, students also took part in eight interactive breakout sessions led by professionals in law, health, IT, media, education, student life, HR/procurement, and the military. These sessions gave students insight into different career paths and practical steps they can take now to prepare for the future. The OKESS visit left us even more confident that when young people are given the right tools and direction, they begin to see their potential and take steps to live it out.



SPOTLIGHT AFRICA



Odunayo Eweniyi

Odunayo is a Nigerian tech innovator, social entrepreneur, and a powerful voice for youth-driven change in Africa's digital economy.

She is the Co-founder and Chief Operations Officer of PiggyVest, one of Nigeria's leading fintech platforms helping millions of young people save and invest securely through technology.

Odunayo is also a founding member of the Feminist Coalition, a women-led organization advocating for equality and economic empowerment, and played a pivotal role in the #EndSARS movement through fundraising and mobilization.

She has received multiple awards, including the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 in Technology, the TIME100 Next, and the ELOY Award for Technology. She also co-founded FirstCheck Africa, a fund focused on supporting female-led startups across the continent.

In 2022, she was recognized as a Bloomberg New Economy Catalyst, joining a global group of changemakers shaping the future of innovation, leadership, and impact.

NEW AGE CAREER OPTIONS



WHAT IS A CLOUD SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT/ENGINEER?

Imagine the internet as a vast city. Cloud Solutions Architects are the master planners who design the entire city's infrastructure – where every building (data), road (network), and utility (application) goes. Cloud Engineers are the skilled builders and maintainers who construct, secure, and ensure everything runs smoothly.

They are the backbone of modern digital operations, helping businesses use powerful online platforms (like AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) to store data, run apps, and reach customers without owning costly physical servers.

What They Really Do:

- Design entire cloud systems (like a blueprint for a digital city).
- Plan how apps, data, and security will work in the cloud.
- Advise businesses on the best cloud strategies.
- Build, configure, and deploy cloud infrastructure (the actual construction).
- Monitor, troubleshoot, and optimize cloud systems daily.
- Automate tasks to make everything faster and more reliable.
- Ensure data security and compliance.

Why This Career is the Future for Young Africans:

- Massive Growth: Africa's digital economy is booming! Businesses need Cloud experts to innovate and scale.
- Global Opportunities: Many roles are remote, meaning you can work for top companies worldwide from your home in Africa, accessing competitive salaries.
- Diverse Impact: Cloud skills are vital in every sector – from fintech to healthcare, e-commerce to education.
- Skill-Based Entry: While degrees are good, practical skills and certifications are often your golden ticket in!

How to Get Started:

1. Online Courses: Platforms like Coursera, Udemy, A Cloud Guru offer excellent cloud training.
2. Free Tiers: Practice on AWS Free Tier, Azure Free Account, or Google Cloud Free Program.
3. Certifications: Aim for entry-level certifications (e.g., AWS Cloud Practitioner, Azure Fundamentals, Google Associate Cloud Engineer) – they open doors!
4. Projects: Build small cloud projects to showcase your skills.
5. Internships/Entry Roles: Seek opportunities as a Cloud Administrator or IT Support with a cloud focus.

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