

Students receive insights on life, career and choices

'Discover your purpose,' 'build your skills,' 'make the right choices,' 'seize opportunities,' 'have a plan' – these are some of the many tips students received at the Skills Hunt Summit which was held at the University of Nairobi on April 20, 2017.

Speaker after speaker gave the students tips on how to empower themselves, match their skills with industry needs as well as how to mould their character and attitude.

"Dear students, the society does not only require you to be equipped with academic qualifications but also the correct mind set and character formation," said Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

"Deliberately build your skills, do not accept mediocrity, set high standards for yourself, stay focused, discover your 'why', eliminate distractions, take action and work hard and step up because your time is now," advised Ms. Risper Mukoto, Managing Director, Centum Business Solutions. She engaged the students on how they can position themselves for success in their careers and businesses.

"Students please take advantage of the opportunities availed to you. Be proactive and confident. Know what employers are looking for. Identify a mentor, a giant, who will guide you to grow your careers further and further. Discover your purpose. Develop your potential. Demonstrate your character, competence and commitment," said Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director, University Advancement, UoN.

Prof. Ruth Nduati from the School of Medicine, UoN, made an inspiring presentation dubbed 'skills - the unexploited fortune.' She challenged the students to assess the most precious jewel they have as a people and whether it is used in the most optimal manner.

"I challenge all of you to search from within for fortune and chase after what really matters," she said. "Think outside the box and get out of your comfort zones."

A highlight of the summit was the "Skilled and Unbounded" challenge designed by Dr. Vincent Ogotu. The challenge seeks to help propel students to the next level of their careers. It is a methodological approach to discovering one's abilities, fusing them with passion to help one reach their potential in life. Participants have to register for this series which will run officially throughout the summits, with an eventual winner taking home the 'Dr. Ogotu Award' in November at the Skills Hunt Expo.

The Skills Hunt Summit is an initiative that will culminate into another future event dubbed "Skills Hunt Mega Expo" to be held in November 2017. Over 250 companies will be invited to exhibit career opportunities and over 5,000 students drawn from Kenyan universities will participate.

The impactful event was organized by Accelebrate Leads Limited and the UoN Advancement Office. Key partners include Centum, Britam, Uchumi, BOSCH, African Biotechnology Engineering Consortium, Sunny Money Africa, ArtLAB Africa and Renovation Capital, among others.