



Schooling for Life

Newsletter June 2018

Edition 8



Where did the academic year 2017/2018 go?

We have hardly blinked! And what a good year it has been for us here in Schooling for Life. We so enjoyed training and supporting talented Sierra Leonean youth. All of their and our success was achieved through your donations and your support to empower these youths through the Skills for a Successful Future programme.

Schooling for Life on TV

On Sunday the 1st of July 2018, Schooling for Life will be on TV in the Netherlands! We will be featured in Lifestyle Experience, a TV show on RTL4, starting 14:30hr Dutch time. So far, we have worked with professional photographers and videographers in Sierra Leone who filmed and photographed important aspects of the Skills for a Successful Future programme. Also included in the filming were some corner stone locations in Freetown, to show viewers different aspects of the city in which Schooling for Life operates. The item also features an interview done with our Founder and Country Director, Sjerlyr Pereira, in the Netherlands.



Interested to see the item on Schooling for Life? **Tune in on RTL4 on Sunday 1 July 2018 at 14.30hr Dutch time!**

Our students are going places!

Even more good news! Let us update you on the success of our students who have made it to the job market already.

Alimamy Sesay, one of the Network Engineering (IT) students who did an internship at Afrigas was offered a contract as a result of his hard work and dedication. Afrigas is the leader in import, storage and distribution of cooking gas in Sierra Leone. Alimamy Sesay is one of our dedicated students who has worked very hard over the years and was always top of his class in the programme. We are very proud of him for this great achievement!



Aiah M. Borway, our Construction Engineering student got promoted during his work experience placement to foreman, putting him in charge of the construction site in absence of his supervisor. Aiah expressed how he enjoys working in the field he chose for himself and how happy he is about all the experience he has gained. We at Schooling for Life are very happy to see that our student is doing such an amazing job!

Making progress in class

As usual, we will give you a brief update about our students and the progress they are making in their educational institutes. We are extremely proud of all our students who have been working very hard this past academic year.

Progress of the 2nd year students

All the second year students in the programme are still continuing their classes and have taken their different examinations in their various institutes. Their skills classes are in progress and are planned to all finish by July this year. By that time, most second year students will also have taken their national exams for their college diplomas. Let's all think of them as they put all their effort and dedication towards this long-awaited moment! Good luck everyone!

The colleges all run on different academic calendars (two or three academic periods per year). The students at the Government Technical Institute (**G.T.I**) are in their second year and are awaiting their second semester examination results to move to the end of year. The students at Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (**MMCET**) are in the second semester of their second year and are in preparation for the NCTVA (National Council for Technical and Vocational and other Awards) Diploma Examination. The **COBIT** Students are currently in the third semester of their first academic year and are preparing to take their end of year examination in July 2018 to move on to the second year. Finally, the **IAMTECH** students are awaiting their first semester examination results and are currently in their second semester to also work towards the end of Diploma course NCTVA exams.

Progress of the 3rd year students

Two Software Engineering students at **BlueCrest College** have completed their Honours Diploma in Software Engineering and are currently doing their Web Development programme, which they will finish in October 2018.

The seven Network Engineering students at the **BlueCrest College** are now in their second semester of their final year, which they will also finish in October 2018.

The two Secretarial Studies students at **MMCET** are preparing for their end of course NCTVA Diploma examination. Last but not least, our Nursing student at **Redeemers School of Nursing**, is standing out in every way. She is currently in her second year and came in **second in her class out of 128 students and first in Math in the end of year exams!** What a remarkable job!

Skills class taught by our own students



Patrick Barber, one of our I.T. students at BlueCrest, has started his internship with us at Schooling for Life as a Computer Skills intern-trainer, training the Computer Skills class for the second year students, together with Patrick Mambu, one of our other I.T. students.

As we all know, the transition from college to work place requires professional skills and in the modern day work place, the main tool for work is the computer. So that is why Schooling for Life provides her students with the necessary basic computer skills. From working with Word to Excel to the internet, and of course, how to

manage your email.

The purpose of the training is to provide basic computer knowledge and skills so that students will be able to work with a computer and basic programmes in both their private and professional lives. Of course, we have also developed a curriculum handbook for the students to take home and study from.

"I was not thinking of becoming a Computer Skills Intern-Trainer, but as always, Schooling for Life is a training ground for youth empowerment and the place where things happen. They gave me the opportunity to teach. I feel so proud of myself to stand and teach students of my age. This is an opportunity to increase and test my knowledge from my college because I can't go into the classroom to teach, without looking at notes from class and that serves as a recap for me." Patrick Barber, Intern-Trainer for Computer Skills class.



Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will tell you all about Junisa Sovula's internship at Schooling for Life!

Our students are ready to tell the world about SfL

On the 10th February 2018, upon request from our students, we had a training on outreach with both our 2nd and 3rd year students.

The purpose of the training was to train both batches of students on how to do outreach to promote Schooling for Life. On the 21st and 22nd of March this year, our students went to different (educational) institutes and communities in teams within Freetown during our new application process for the academic year 2018/2019, to reach out to young Sierra Leoneans who haven't heard about Schooling for Life. They told them what we do and how they have benefited from the programme to motivate them to apply.

The first TVET Job Fair in Sierra Leone



On the 19th April 2018, the TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) Coalition organised the first TVET Job Fair in Sierra Leone at the British Council, Freetown. Schooling for Life is a very active member of the TVET Coalition and was one of the organisers of this specific event.

The TVET Coalition is an alliance composed of government institutions, training providers, international donors, the private sector, (international) NGOs and bi/multilateral organisations.

The TVET Job Fair was organised to bring together employers, potential employees and training providers. The event was a great success with over 600 job seekers attending between 10am and 5pm, and over 100 employers represented, amongst whom: UNDP, UNFPA, Africell, Cordaid, Sierra Rutile, Afrigas, the Chinese Embassy, Afriqia HR Solutions, the British Council, GIZ, Save the Children, and many more.

The job seekers had the opportunity to attend (free) workshops throughout the day that were all related to the job market. With a total space for 150 job seekers divided over 5 workshops, we couldn't even satisfy the requests.

As always, we encouraged all our students to attend the TVET Job Fair and to help out with preparations.

A group of Schooling for Life students did great jobs in supporting the Coalition by welcoming registered job seekers and handing out goodie bags to them at the entrance of the Job Fair. As an organising member, Schooling for Life also had a booth at the Job Fair, that was (wo)manned by our staff and students to explain to participants about the great work of Schooling for Life.



Capacity Training for staff and students

A one-day interactive staff capacity building training on how to create an enjoyable work environment was conducted for the staff on 14th May 2018, facilitated by Mr. Pereira.

Subtopics were: How to properly plan work, prioritising tasks, and daring to ask your supervisor or colleague clarifying questions on tasks you don't understand. The facilitator of the training explained that using these methods helps reduce stress on staff and creates a healthy work environment within the organisation.





On the 11th May 2018, the students also received a training on General Health, Stress Management and Healthy Living in a student's life. The training was very interactive with group activities on healthy lifestyles and dramas created by students on the causes of stress and how to overcome them.

"The health workshop made my day, I realized that my mental health needs to be taken care of by managing my stress level, doing regular exercises and taking care of my personal hygiene." Mohamed Kamara Jr., 2nd year student, Schooling for Life.



Vacancies (Voluntary) in the Netherlands

Schooling for Life in the Netherlands is the support system of Schooling for Life Sierra Leone. Do you want to be a part of that support system and **be part of this driving force**, do you know somebody or do you want to receive more information? Send an e-mail to info@schoolingforlife.net or visit our website www.schoolingforlife.net.

We are currently looking for a **Web/Email manager** and a **Social Media manager**. **Come Join Us!**

Become a Supporter of Successful Futures!

Be part of our journey and become part of the futures of our students and their families.



Donations done in/to the Netherlands
Send your donation to:

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Schooling for Life
Euro account number (IBAN)
NL49 RABO 0171749022
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Thank you to everyone for supporting the Skills for a Successful Future of our youth in Sierra Leone!!