

## Benedictus K. Agbenyo



My name is Benedictus K. Agbenyo. I am a graduate of the University for Development Studies, Ghana, where I studied B.A. Integrated Development Studies. I majored in Economics.

My ambition to study Economics would not have been possible without the support from Educational Pathways International (EPI). Educational Pathways International did not only award me with a full scholarship, it also made me a part of a wonderful family of gifted, passionate and dedicated young men and women. I have come to the understanding that sponsorship for higher education is not all about providing the financial needs of the beneficiaries but also their social development. Educational Pathways International provided both financial support and social development to beneficiaries.

Financially, EPI provided everything I needed for my academic work including a stipend for the four years I stayed at the University. This financial support has played a very important role in my studies, since I did not have to worry about how my academic needs would be met, as one coming from a less privileged family.

Socially, EPI made me understand that to be successful, you need more than good academic performance. Hence, EPI took as through personal development training where we learnt

good time management, goal setting, public speaking among others. As a result of these trainings from EPI, I was able to represent my faculty (Faculty of Integrated Development Studies) in a pitch competition at Mzuzah Convergence held at Ashesi University, which made my faculty to win the Indigenous Project Award and also gave me the opportunity to be one of two students to represent the faculty at Mzuzah Convergence held at Johns Hopkins University, Cary Business School, USA.

Educational Pathways International (EPI) means more to me than an Organization that helped me to have access to higher education, EPI is the name of the family I am very proud to be part of. This is because EPI monitors the progress of the beneficiaries and find possible ways to help them achieve their goals even when they are done with their University education. This was evident when EPI made it possible for four past beneficiaries to be part of a meeting organized by the Governor of Nevada and his board when they embarked on a trade mission to Ghana. This meeting presented us with the opportunity to share our ideas, aspirations and interest. At the end of the meeting, the four of us made valuable contacts that would be very beneficial to our future endeavours.

My decision to be an Economist was inspired by the fact that though Africa is blessed with many resources, both natural and human resources, poverty reduction is still one of its nightmares. This I believe can be attributed to poor resource management, inefficient use of resources among others. As a young economist, my areas of interest are Development, Public Sector, Financial and Energy Economics. By the grace of God, I would make the right decision and specialize in an area where I can contribute the best of my abilities to the development of Ghana and make my country a better place.

I owe EPI huge debt of gratitude for the investment it has made in my education, without EPI, I don't know where I would have been. God bless EPI and all the men and women in the Organization working tirelessly to ensure that hidden lights are given the opportunity to bright.