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To inspire and motivate learners to attain excellence through web-based blended and distance teaching and learning.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

By Abiola Kalejaiye

It is with utmost delight that I write this editorial comment for the maiden edition of the official Newsletter of Babcock University Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (BUCODEL).

This edition heralds the National University Commission's approval of Babcock University as the 2nd Private University to run Open Distance and e-learning Centre in Nigeria. It also brings to the fore the history and importance of Open Distance Learning (ODL) in Nigeria and the role Babcock University is committed to making in creating, sustaining and promoting ODL in Nigeria.

Precisely, the newsletter comprises outstanding articles written by seasoned ODL experts and relevant information that prospective students and stakeholders may require to partake of the enormous benefits the new mode of learning offers.

The narratives in the magazine commence with the lucid history of Babcock University Open Distance Centre by Prof. Mobolanle Ebunoluwa Sotunsa, the Director, Babcock University Open Distance and e-learning. The exposition pontificates the timeliness of BUCODEL in a dynamic world.

Furthermore, the article by Mr. Aluko Odunayo, the Head of Learner support divulges the significance of learner support to Open Distance Learning, while Mrs. Julia Izang's article discusses the uniqueness of the freshly approved BUCODEL ODL BSC Accounting programme.



Dr. Abiola S. Kalejaiye

Additionally, this edition captures pertinent reports on workshops that have been organised by BUCODEL; the first, is the e-tutor workshop that was organised to empower all the newly employed e-tutors and facilitators by the centre and the second is the 2-Day Workshop organized by the centre from 30th November -1st December on Authentic Assessment in ODL. The workshops did not only prepare the trainees but equipped them to deliver excellently on their assignments.

The combination of the diverse articles in this edition foregrounds the profundity of varied professionalism required by the National University Commission for the approval of an ODL centre. It is our prayer that more institutions in Nigeria will be found worthy.

Once again, with utmost pleasure, I present to you the maiden edition of the Babcock University Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning Newsletter, a quarterly publication that showcases the Babcock University Open Distance and e-Learning Centre as the citadel of 21st century education.

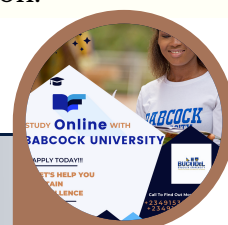
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e-Learning
QUOTE

"People expect to be bored by eLearning—let's show them it doesn't have to be like that!"
- Cammy Bean



BUCODEL RESUMES ONLINE CLASSES

By Odunayo Aluko

Resumptions are often periods of high hopes and anxiety. At whatever level of education, the thought of having to be academically engaged for some months comes with a lot of uncertainty, and (re)adjustment. However, such predicaments are made less scary by the friendliness of the people welcoming one to the new experience. BUCODEL 2021/2022 academic session which is first of its kind commenced on November 1st 2021. with 5 learners. Indeed, it was a historic moment, as the Centre welcomed her first set of CODEL learners. The first week of resumption (November 1st to 5th) was set aside for orientation and familiarization.

The learners had the chance to meet with the administrators of BUCODEL and their e-Tutors in a Learners' Live Event on Wednesday November 3rd.

BUCODEL is leveraging education in Nigeria, because it is designed with the present realities in mind – meeting learners wherever they are.

”

The administrators and e-tutors were elated to welcome the first set of learners. A traditional university would have its resuming students pack bags and luggage to reside on campus, Contrarily, learners at BUCODEL, simply sat by their laptops, modems and phones and conversed with crops of trained staff and faculty, who orientated varyingly. BUCODEL is leveraging education in Nigeria, because it is designed with the present realities in mind – meeting learners wherever they are.



Prof. David K. Akanbi
Pioneer Director, BUCODEL

e-Learning

QUOTE

"Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing."

-

Donna J. Abernathy



BUCODEL BUILDING





BABCOCK UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR OPEN DISTANCE AND e-LEARNING (BUCODEL)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

By Mobolanle Sotunsa



Prof. Mobolanle E. Sotunsa
Director, BUCODEL

The idea for institutionalizing Babcock University Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (BUCODEL) was first conceived in 2008 when the then Dean of the School of Education and Humanities, Prof David Kunle Akanbi organized the first sensitization workshop on Open Distance and e-Learning on the 28th April 2008 in collaboration

with the Department of Educational Technology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The University senate approved the appointment of the inaugural Director of the Centre, in person of Prof David Kunle Akanbi in September 2009, and institutionalized the directorate of the Babcock Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning.

The Centre within the past thirteen years has concentrated primarily on manpower capacity building and curriculum development.

To date, BUCODEL has organized over twenty (20) trainings and workshops including Train the Trainer workshops on Course Content Development, Overview of ODL, Technology Enabled Learning, Curriculum Writing Workshops, use of LMS, Open Educational Resources (OER), Simulated Online Instruction, among others.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW CONTD.

Of interest are two trainings funded by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) which includes Instructional (Re)Designing of Course Materials and more recently Sensitisation Workshop on Authentic Assessment in Dual – Mode Universities in Nigeria. Over eighty (80) content writers and staff of the Centre and the university at large have benefitted from these trainings.

The NUC approval was secured August 3rd, 2021. The Centre commenced learning activities with BSc Accounting on November 1st 2021.



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SOURCING AND WINNING INTERNATIONAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS WORKSHOP

INTERFACES AND COLLABORATIONS

NOUN: BUCODEL has constantly engaged with NOUN through RETRIDOL. The Centre has been part of RETRIDOL's trainings in the past five years and more.

COL/RETRIDOL: RETRIDOL has equally facilitated most of BUCODEL's engagements with COL. COL through RETRIDOL sponsored a workshop on Instructional (Re)Designing of Course Content. On November 30 – December 1st, 2021 COL directly sponsored a workshop on Authentic Assessment in Dual Mode Universities in Nigeria.

NUC: BUCODEL's engagement with NUC has been robust. We have been a part of the NUC – UOL series of training for the past three years. BUCODEL also submits its course content for NUC's continuous review and evaluation

RIDDLE

Which 5 letter words in the dictionary can be pronounced the same, even if it has 4 of its letters removed?

Answer: Queue

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IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING ACCOUNTING ONLINE

By Julia Izang

Accounting professionals are well aware that, as a result of technology advancements, their functions have shifted to the cloud. This is just another rationale why aspiring accountants should contemplate learning on an online platform rather than in a regular classroom. Aspiring professional accountants should anticipate their careers to develop predominantly online once they graduate and begin working; as a result, completing an online accounting degree program actually makes sense. Modern accounting degree programs include learning how to analyze data, undertake research, and use online applications. This is the type of working environment that truly innovative accountants will face, and they can prepare for it by enrolling in an online graduate program.

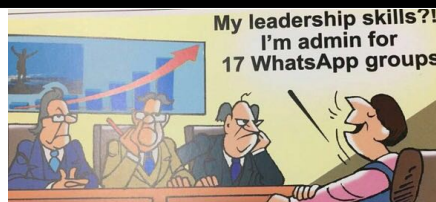
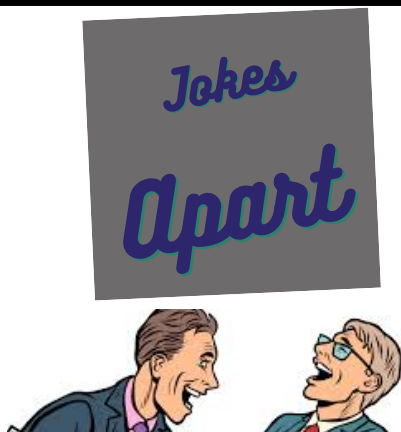
Distance learning platforms provide flexibility in terms of time, space, and finances to learners who may not have the luxury of studying full-time physically. Accountants are critical to the international economy, and it is critical that institutions of higher learning equip them with the skills needed to succeed in today's uncertain economy.

Open Distance and e-Learning allows students to get more familiar with the digital world while also broadening their horizons in terms of adjusting to technology disruptions. Online certificates, online jobs, and information that can be applied anywhere in the world are all possible thanks to Open Distance and e-Learning (ODEL). The digital world is rapidly taking over the planet as a result of the COVID-19

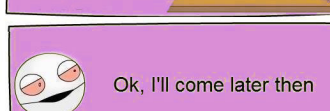
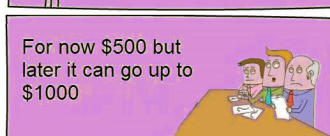
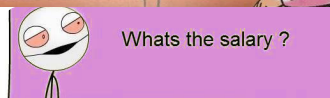
pandemic.



Open distance learning allows students to get more familiar with the digital world.



Interviewer: What is a skeleton?
Sardar: Sir, skeleton is a person who started dieting, but forgot to stop it!!



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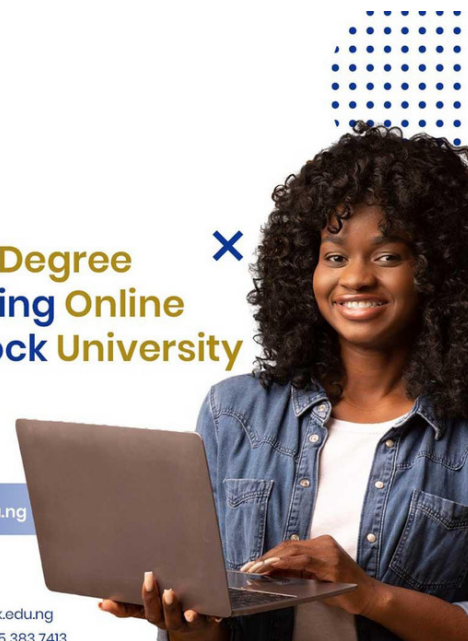
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The internet platform is used by many enterprises, educational institutions, corporate events, and religious gatherings to execute the tasks. ODeL is widely used in the developed world, and it is progressively being adopted by other countries.

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S U P P O R T

BUCODEL LEARNERS SUPPORT... MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Certainly, migrating from face-to-face teaching to online mode poses some challenges to learners. Prominent among these is the challenge of lack of or inadequate support for learners. Nevertheless, BUCODEL bridges this gap perfectly by introducing a dynamic unit-Bucodel Learner Support (BLS), a unit strategically established to motivate, provide learners with information as well as skills and assistance that can enable them achieve their academic goals and develop holistically. Therefore, to achieve her goals, BLS offers several services to learners, some salient ones are exposed in this write up.

First and foremost, BLS offers Advice and Guidance (IA&G) services to all learners through diverse means. One, it provides professional counselling services to meet learners' social and psychological needs. Two, it effectively answers their questions regarding how to go about their day- to day- navigation, and thirdly the centre provides a top notch ICT service that can enable the learners access the centre 24/7 through channels such as: the LMS, email or even through the use of the WhatsApp courtesy of the ICT staff members.

"The BLS ICT department works around the clock to ensure that Bucodel learners are well orientated."



Aluko Odunayo

HEAD, LEARNERS' SUPPORT

Second, the BLS ICT department works around the clock to ensure that BUCODEL learners are well orientated. For instance, in the just concluded 2021/2022 academic session orientation, this unit orientated learners on how to use different systems such as: Learning Management System (LMS), Students' Information System (SIS).

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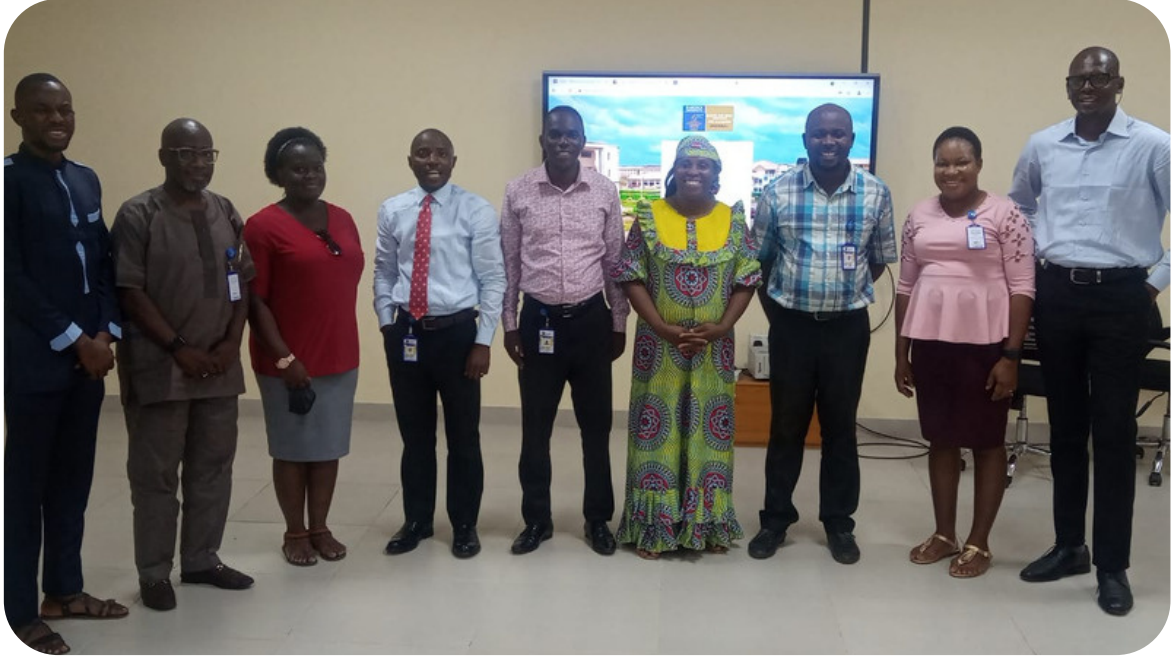
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AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

BUCODEL Organizes

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR E-TUTORS



The newly trained e-Tutors with the Facilitators: Director, Prof. M.E. Sotunsa and Mr. Damilare Akinwunmi

By Peace Aburime

A 3-day training program was organized by the Management of Babcock University Center for Open Distance and e-Learning (BUCODEL) for e-tutors from the 8th to 10th of November, 2021. This training exercise was facilitated by Professor M.E Sotunsa the Director and Mr. Damilare Akinwunmi the WebMaster and Head, Media Services.

The management of BUCODEL recognizes the training exercise as a phase of great importance in the process of integrating e-tutoring in the existing structure of any educational institution. Therefore, the training focused on the fact that all human services in BUCODEL must be built on very clear values as these values underpin the mission and vision of the Centre.

The e-tutors were enlightened on their roles such as mentoring, problem solving, providing tutorials, among others. There was also training on responding to the distance learners' questions synchronously and asynchronously, preparation of examination questions into CBT format, ensuring prompt response to on-line chatting and interaction on the LMS.


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