

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, DEFINING THE FUTURE

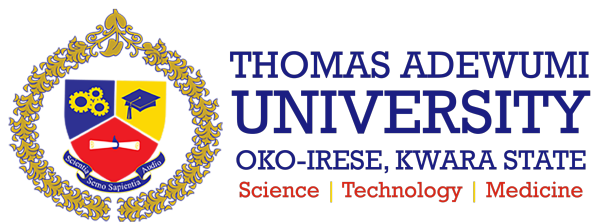
CONVOCATION ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, THOMAS ADEWUMI UNIVERSITY, OKO-IRESE, PROFESSOR FRANCISCA ONAOLAPO OLADIPO (YEYE ATUNLUSE OF OKO-IRESE) ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND CONVOCATION CEREMONY. WEDNESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2025

## PROTOCOL

The Chancellor and Founder of Thomas Adewumi University, Engr. Dr. Johnson Bamidele Adewumi; our gracious Co-Founder, Dr. Mrs. Gloria Adewumi; the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of our Governing Council, Professor Victor Olanrewaju; distinguished members of our Board of Trustees and Governing Council; The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu; His Royal Highness, the Oloko of Oko-Irese Kingdom, Oba Victor Oluwafemi Olawuyi; our esteemed Convocation Lecturer and Special Guests of Honour; Pastor (Dr.) Bayo W. Olugbemi, The Managing Director/CEO of First Registrars & Investor Services Ltd and Past President, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria; our esteemed honorees, Engr. (Mrs) Oluseyi Afolabi and Pastor Olatunde Oladokun, JP; visiting Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and Chief Executives; Principal Officers and members of the University Senate; dedicated members of our teaching and non-teaching staff; distinguished guests who have travelled from near and far to witness this historic occasion; members of the press who will carry this story beyond these walls; proud parents and guardians, you who sacrificed, prayed, believed, and trusted us with your children's futures; and finally, most especially, our 63 distinguished graduands of the Class of 2025: You who came here with dreams and leave today with credentials to make those dreams reality. You who are the reason we are all gathered here. You who will carry the Thomas Adewumi University name into the world and prove what we already know that excellence knows no boundaries, that innovation recognizes no limits, and that from this campus in Oko-Irese, Kwara State, Nigeria, we are producing graduates who will compete with, and often surpass, graduates from anywhere in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, with profound emotion and overwhelming pride, I welcome you to this historic Second Convocation Ceremony of Thomas Adewumi University.

I warmly welcome all the friends of our university, both here with us on campus and online, and I most specially acknowledge and welcome the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu (represented by the NUC's rep in our Governing Council, Bar Esther Eyo), our Convocation Lecturer, Pastor (Dr.) Bayo W. Olugbemi, The Managing Director/CEO of First Registrars & Investor Services Ltd and Past President, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, as well as our honorees, Engr. (Mrs) Oluseyi Afolabi and Pastor Olatunde Oladokun, JP. We welcome you to Oko-Irese and to the TAU Campus Community. We thank you for accepting to being a part of our university's history. I appreciate the presence of all the visiting Chief Executives of other institutions: Vice-Chancellors of sister universities, Rectors of Polytechnics, Provosts of Colleges of Education, Registrars of sister universities, our Royal Fathers, all our guests, parents and guardians, staff, students, and friends, I most sincerely welcome you all as we celebrate this epoch-making occasion. We are grateful to all our dignitaries who came from far and near to honour our invitation and for your demonstration of goodwill towards our university. Our most respected Founder, Engr. Dr. Johnson B. Adewumi, I heartily welcome you and our co-Founder, Dr. Gloria Adewumi to the Maiden Convocation Ceremony and wish you a super happy birthday!



### **1.0 A Legacy Transformed into Excellence**

From Engineer Dr. Johnson Adewumi FNSE's vision, beginning with Prime Time (now Thomas Adewumi) Nursery and Primary School (1996) and Thomas Adewumi International College (1997), once voted "Best Post Primary School in Nigeria", TAU emerged on April 8, 2021, as Nigeria's fastest-growing Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Innovations (STEM-i) ecosystem. Today, we rank 1<sup>st</sup> among the 20 private universities that were licensed in 2021, 4<sup>th</sup> among the 14 universities in Kwara, 5<sup>th</sup> among Nigeria's over 170 private universities and 50<sup>th</sup> nationally, an impressive rise reflecting our unwavering commitment to excellence.

### **2.0 A Moment of Extraordinary Significance**

Today, we stand at a crossroads far more significant than words can adequately capture. Exactly one year ago, we gathered at this very auditorium to celebrate our inaugural convocation, a ceremony that marked the graduation of 26 pioneering students who dared to believe in a vision when others saw only impossibility. Those 26 trailblazers proved that Thomas Adewumi University was not just a dream, but a reality rooted in excellence. Today, as we honour 63 outstanding graduates, we witness something far more profound than numerical growth. This 142% increase in our graduating class is not merely a statistic to be recorded in annual reports, it is a declaration that Thomas Adewumi University has transcended the realm of promise and entered the domain of proof. We have moved from potential to performance, from aspiration to achievement, from vision to velocity.

This year, 63 graduands from 4 Faculties and 11 academic programmes are being conferred. It is noteworthy that we have 16 First Class graduates, 40 in Second Class Upper Division, and 7 in Second Class Lower Division. These results reflect the quality of training and mentorship provided at Thomas Adewumi University, and we are proud to contribute these innovators to both the Nigerian and global workforce, confident that they will make a meaningful impact.

### **3.0 Preparing Globally Competitive Graduates**

These 63 graduands are not merely degree holders, they are comprehensively prepared global professionals equipped with exceptional advantages that set them apart from their peers nationwide. Through our international partnerships, these graduates have obtained additional microcredentials from MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Berkeley, and Yale, world-class certifications from Alison, UK, RUDN professional University, Russia, World Bank's Saylor Academy, Google, ICAN, and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development initiatives in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. Our Coursera collaboration provided them with additional industry certifications, while partnerships with Microsoft, IBM SkillsBuild, and MIT OpenCourseWare through our Global Campus initiative democratize access to cutting-edge knowledge. They are thus fully equipped to embark on meaningful and innovative careers in today's technology-driven world.

This achievement reflects not only the hard work and perseverance of our students but also the unwavering dedication of our academic and support staff, as well as the sacrifices of parents and guardians. I heartily congratulate our graduands and rejoice with their families on reaching this landmark. I urge them to be exemplary Ambassadors of Thomas Adewumi University, upholding the values and integrity of this great institution as they move forward into the next chapter of their lives.

### **4.0 Honouring Giants: Our Distinguished Honorary Doctorate Recipients**

Before we proceed, I must pause to acknowledge two extraordinary Nigerians whose lives, achievements, and contributions to our nation's development have earned them the highest academic honour Thomas Adewumi University can bestow.



THOMAS ADEWUMI  
**UNIVERSITY**  
OKO-IRESE, KWARA STATE  
Science | Technology | Medicine



**Engr. Oluseyi Afolabi, MNSE, FNSChE: Doctor of Engineering (Honoris Causa)**

Engr. Oluseyi Afolabi stands before you today as the Principal Consultant and Chief Executive Officer of Reservoir and Facilities Solutions Nigeria Limited, but titles alone cannot capture the magnitude of this woman's impact on Nigeria's oil and gas sector, which remains the lifeblood of our national economy. For over three decades, Engr. Afolabi has dedicated her brilliance, expertise, and unwavering commitment to solving some of the most complex engineering challenges facing Nigeria's petroleum industry. As a Member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE), a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (FNSChE), and the current Chairman BOT of Society of Petroleum Engineers, Nigeria Council she has not merely pursued a career, she has built a legacy. She has mentored countless young engineers, sharing not just technical knowledge but instilling in them the values of excellence, integrity, and national service and demonstrated that Nigerian engineers can deliver world-class solutions without dependence on foreign expertise.

**Pastor Oladokun Olatunde: Doctor of Business Administration (Honoris Causa)**

Pastor Oladokun Olatunde, Chairman of SEAP Holdings Limited, represents the intersection of business acumen, visionary leadership, and profound commitment to societal transformation that we aspire to cultivate in every TAU graduate. SEAP Holdings Limited, under Pastor Olatunde's leadership, has become more than a business conglomerate, it has become a vehicle for economic empowerment, job creation, and community development across Nigeria. Through diverse business interests spanning multiple sectors, Pastor Olatunde has created opportunities for thousands of Nigerians, transforming lives, lifting families from poverty, and contributing to Nigeria's economic growth. But what truly distinguishes Pastor Olatunde, what moves this institution to honour him today, is his understanding that true success is measured not merely by what you accumulate, but by what you contribute. His philanthropic initiatives in education, his support for youth development programs, his investments in community infrastructure, and his mentorship of young entrepreneurs demonstrate a man who has internalized a profound truth: To whom much is given, much is required.

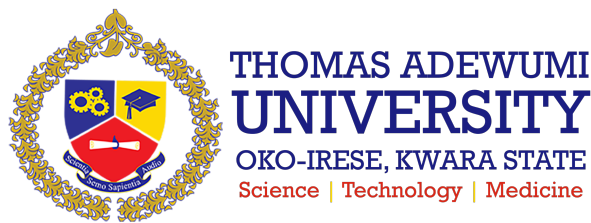
To both our honorary doctorate recipients: You honour us by accepting these honours. Your lives inspire us. Your achievements challenge us. Your commitments remind us why universities exist, not merely to confer degrees, but to celebrate, encourage, and multiply the kind of excellence, service, and impact you both represent.

**5.0 A Year of Miracles: What God and Hard Work Have Done**

In the twelve short months since our first convocation, Thomas Adewumi University has accomplished what many institutions spend decades attempting to achieve. We have not simply grown we have transformed. We have not merely added programs, we have revolutionized educational access. We have not just formed partnerships, we have positioned ourselves at the global forefront of innovation in African higher education.

Allow me to paint for you the full picture of this transformation:

1. **Academic Development:** We have established a College of Medicine, securing approval from the National Universities Commission to launch our Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program and our Bachelor of Radiography and Radiation Science program. Let me emphasize the magnitude of this achievement: medical education was scheduled in our original strategic plan for 25 years after the university's establishment. We have delivered it in four. We have launched our School of Postgraduate Studies, approved by the NUC to offer 27 comprehensive postgraduate programs spanning Postgraduate Diplomas, Master's degrees including the prestigious MBA, specialized M.Sc. programs, and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs across multiple disciplines. What does this mean? It means that a student can now begin their educational journey at TAU as an undergraduate and continue through to the highest academic qualification, a Ph.D. without ever leaving our campus. This is the complete educational ecosystem that only mature, well-established universities typically provide.



2. **Partnerships and Skillsbuilding:** We have secured a groundbreaking partnership with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), United Kingdom, one of the world's largest and most prestigious professional body of management accountants. Through this partnership, our graduates in Accounting, Business Administration and Economics now have direct pathways to earn the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation, which holds the academic standing of a master's degree in the United Kingdom. Our graduates are also chartered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), ensuring they enter the professional world not just with academic degrees, but with globally recognized professional certifications that open doors across continents. We have partnered with edX, the revolutionary online learning platform founded by two of the world's most prestigious institutions: Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Through this partnership, our students now have unprecedented access to microcredentials, professional certificates, and stackable credentials from an extraordinary roster of world-class institutions including MIT, Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University, University of California Berkeley, University of Oxford, Imperial College London, and leading corporations such as Google, Amazon Web Services, IBM, and Microsoft. Imagine: a student sitting right here in Oko-Irese, Kwara State, can earn a MicroMasters credential from MIT, a Professional Certificate from Google, or an XSeries from Harvard, credentials recognized and valued by employers worldwide.
3. **We have also retained our partnership with Coursera**, which our Founder and Chancellor, Engr. Dr. Johnson Adewumi, personally negotiated with Coursera's Partnership Director, Mr. Andy Poole, during a strategic meeting in Southampton, United Kingdom in June 2022. This partnership provides our students with on-demand access to industry certifications and specialized skills training from hundreds of leading universities and technology companies globally, all at costs far below what students elsewhere must pay.
4. **We have created the TAU Foreign Language Centre**, perhaps one of our most visionary and forward-thinking initiatives. In recognition that the leaders of tomorrow must be citizens of the world, we have instituted a requirement that every Thomas Adewumi University graduate must obtain working certificates and demonstrate functional fluency in four of the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, English (being taught as a second language). We have also included German. There are plans in place to expand to, Russian, and Spanish. Think about what this means: our graduates will walk into international conference rooms, business negotiations, diplomatic missions, and global corporations able to communicate directly with partners across continents and cultures. While others scramble to hire translators, our graduates will be the translators. While others struggle to bridge cultural divides, our graduates will be the bridges.
5. **We have established the Thomas Adewumi University Centre for Distance and E-Learning (TAU-CeDeL)** a comprehensive digital learning platform that demolishes the walls that traditionally confine education to physical campuses. Through strategic partnerships with Microsoft, IBM SkillsBuild, Huawei Technologies, MIT OpenCourseWare, Saylor Academy, the European Alliance for Innovation, the International Council for Open and Distance Education, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, we are able to offer flexible, accessible, and world-class online courses, certifications, and professional development programs. Working professionals, lifelong learners, and students worldwide can now access Thomas Adewumi University's excellence from anywhere they find themselves. We have made quality education borderless.
6. **The Game Changer -Google Campus:** We have been selected as a Google Campus under the prestigious Nigeria Google Education Partnership Programme, a designation that places TAU among a select global network of institutions recognized by Google for innovation and commitment to educational excellence. Through this partnership, we are pioneering the SDGs Summer School, a free program jointly sponsored by Thomas Adewumi University, Google Research, and Google's ExploreCSR initiative. This program focuses on harnessing artificial intelligence for inclusive and quality education, positioning our students at the absolute forefront of using technology to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

And now, let me share with you what may be the most exciting development of this past year an achievement that has positioned Thomas Adewumi University as a pioneer not just in Nigeria, but across the entire African continent.

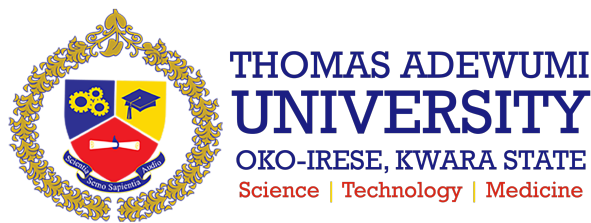
7. **The FSI-Mentors Without Borders Breakthrough: Leading Africa into the Future:** In October 2025, Thomas Adewumi University was selected as the first and only Nigerian institution, and indeed the second university in all of Africa, to pilot the Mentors Without Borders Tech Mentorship Programme in partnership with Financial Services Innovators (FSI). Let me allow this achievement to settle in your minds for a moment. This program has been running successfully in Ghana. When the leadership of FSI and Mentors Without Borders looked across the entire African continent to determine which institution should be the pioneering university for their expansion into Nigeria, which institution possessed the innovation, commitment, infrastructure, and vision necessary to successfully implement this transformative program, they chose Thomas Adewumi University. What does this partnership entail? We are not speaking of a small pilot program or a modest collaboration. Financial Services Innovators has invested ₦53 million in Thomas Adewumi University, ₦50 million in cutting-edge equipment and mentorship support, plus ₦3 million in direct financial donations. With this investment, we have established the FSI-Tech Without Borders Innovation Centre right here on our campus.

Through this six-month intensive mentorship program, 50 carefully selected TAU students are receiving world-class training and personalized mentorship in the most in-demand technology fields of our time: web development, machine learning, artificial intelligence product management, project management, digital marketing, and technical support. These 50 students are not being mentored by local practitioners or even by successful Nigerian technology professionals. They are being mentored directly by engineers, product managers, and technology leaders from Microsoft Corporation, Google Inc., Atlassian, and other top-tier global technology firms. These are the individuals who are literally building the future, who are creating the artificial intelligence systems, designing the cloud platforms, developing the collaboration tools, and shaping the digital economy that will define the next fifty years. Our students work on real-world projects under this guidance, projects that become part of their professional portfolios, projects that can attract venture capital investment, projects that solve actual problems facing communities and businesses. This is not theoretical education; this is education at the cutting edge of global innovation.

This program will serve as a pilot initiative. Upon its successful completion here at TAU, and I have no doubt it will be successful, Financial Services Innovators and Mentors Without Borders plan to expand it to other universities across Nigeria and throughout Africa. Once again, Thomas Adewumi University is not following trends, we are setting them. We are not watching from the sidelines, we are on the field, leading the game.

8. **Erasmus+ Programme for Student and Staff Mobility:** This year, TAU has been admitted into the prestigious Erasmus+ programme, the European Union's flagship initiative supporting education, training, youth, and sport. Through Erasmus+, our students and staff now have access to international exchange opportunities, scholarships for study in European universities, and collaborative research partnerships with institutions across Europe. This means that TAU students can now study in universities in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and across the European Union while earning credits that count toward their TAU degrees. This means our faculty can engage in research collaborations with the best minds in Europe. This means TAU has been recognized at the global level as an institution worthy of international academic exchange. From a university in rural Oko-Irese to partnerships with European institutions—this is the TAU story of unstoppable global ascent!
9. **Capital Development:** Distinguished guests, through the generous support of our Founder and Chancellor, we have commenced several capital projects as can be seen across our campuses. Using mainly materials





from our grounds, we completed two students Halls of Residence with a third being about 70% completed. Arrangements are in advanced stages for the commencement of the construction of the Clinical Complex at the Teaching Hospital, as well as the College of Medicine.

10. **Ranking:** None of these partnerships, programs, or achievements would mean anything if we did not maintain unwavering commitment to academic excellence. Thomas Adewumi University has earned remarkable recognition in national rankings, securing the 1st position among all private universities that were licensed in 2021, 5th position among all private universities in Nigeria and 50th position overall across all 310++ Nigerian universities public and private. Let me emphasize this: we achieved this ranking in our fourth year of operation. Most universities take decades to achieve such recognition. This ranking is not based on marketing or public relations; it is based on rigorous assessment of our academic programs, research output, faculty qualifications, infrastructure, and graduate outcomes. The Kwara Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (KWACCIMA) recognized Thomas Adewumi University as the 2nd Runner Up Tertiary Institution of the Year in Kwara State. This prestigious accolade was determined through a competitive voting process and recognizes our excellence in education, innovation, and community engagement. When the business community, those who will ultimately employ our graduates, recognizes our excellence, it validates everything we are doing.

#### 6.0 From 13 to 29 Programs: Calculated, Strategic Expansion

When Thomas Adewumi University received its official license from the Federal Government on April 8, 2021, and commenced operations on May 16 of that same year, we began with 13 academic programs across three faculties. Today, we offer 29 fully accredited and approved programs across seven faculties and one college:

- Faculty of Arts and Humanities: where we cultivate critical thinking, creative expression, and cultural understanding
- Faculty of Basic Medical and Health Sciences: where we train the healthcare professionals who will heal our nation
- Faculty of Computing and Applied Sciences: where we prepare the technologists and scientists who will innovate our future
- Faculty of Engineering: where we develop the builders and problem-solvers who will construct our infrastructure
- Faculty of Law: where we shape the legal minds who will uphold justice
- Faculty of Management and Social Sciences: where we nurture the business leaders and social scientists who will drive economic development
- Faculty of Nursing Sciences: where we produce compassionate, competent nurses who will provide world-class patient care
- College of Medicine: where we train the healers and health innovators who will transform healthcare delivery across Africa and beyond.

#### 7.0 Postgraduate Education: Completing the Academic Pipeline

Our establishment of the School of Postgraduate Studies, approved by the National Universities Commission to offer 27 postgraduate programs, represents the maturation of Thomas Adewumi University from an undergraduate institution to a comprehensive university offering education at every level. These 27 programs span:

- Postgraduate Diplomas for specialized professional training
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) and specialized Master of Science (M.Sc.) programs for advanced professional development
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programs for those who will push the boundaries of knowledge through research



Students can now pursue continuous academic advancement from their first degree through to the highest academic qualification without leaving TAU. This is the hallmark of a mature, comprehensive university.

### **8.0 College of Medicine: Fulfilling a Vision Decades Ahead of Schedule**

The establishment of our College of Medicine and the NUC's approval of our Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program and Bachelor of Radiography and Radiation Science program represents perhaps the most dramatic example of Thomas Adewumi University's acceleration of vision. In our original Academic Brief, medical education was scheduled for implementation in year 15. This timeline was based on the conventional wisdom that a university needs decades to build the infrastructure, secure the teaching hospital relationships, recruit the medical faculty, and develop the administrative capacity necessary to successfully run medical programs. **We achieved it in year four.** By September 2025, we admitted our first cohort of medical students. The MBBS curriculum has been meticulously developed by experienced medical educators, aligning with the Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards prescribed by the National Universities Commission. Let me on behalf of the entire TAU campus community express deep appreciation to His Excellency, Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, the Executive Governor of Kwara State, for approving the upgrade of Omu-Aran General Hospital to serve as Thomas Adewumi University's Teaching Hospital, a critical component of medical education.

This is more than an academic program; it is our contribution to addressing Nigeria's critical shortage of physicians and healthcare professionals. It is our investment in the health and wellbeing of our nation.

### **9.0 Sustainability and Self-Reliance: Modelling the Future we teach**

Thomas Adewumi University does not just teach about sustainability and innovation, we live it, we model it, we demonstrate it every single day. Our 214-kilowatt capacity solar farm stands as one of the most visible symbols of our commitment to environmental sustainability and energy independence. Currently, a planned expansion is ongoing and a key significant part of this is not just to ensure continuous power supply even during periods of poor solar radiation, but we are not keeping this clean energy for ourselves. Thomas Adewumi University, through Decrown West Africa Company, hopes to be able to distribute the excess solar energy to neighbouring communities, that way we can enlighten our neighbours, reducing their dependence on expensive and polluting diesel generators, and contributing to Nigeria's transition to renewable energy. We are not just producing energy; we are producing knowledge about energy production. Our engineering students don't just study renewable energy in textbooks, they work with functioning solar systems. They understand the practical challenges of energy storage, power distribution, and system maintenance. When they graduate, they can design, install, and manage solar installations anywhere in the world.

### **10.0 Agricultural Self-Sufficiency: Growing Our Own Future**

We produce up to 75% of the food consumed on our campus through our livestock and crop farms. This is not symbolic agriculture; this is functional food production at scale. Our students can walk through cassava farms, maize plantations, and vegetable gardens. They can observe our poultry operations and cattle ranch. They see the complete agricultural value chain, from land preparation and planting through harvesting, processing, and consumption. Why is this important? Because Nigeria faces food security challenges. Because agriculture is the foundation of economic development. Because our students need to understand that sustainable development is not abstract theory it is practical action, and it begins with the ability to feed ourselves.

### **11.0 Self-Reliance in Infrastructure Development**

In our workshops and engineering facilities, TAU staff and students fabricate the metal work, produce the woodwork, manufacture the concrete blocks, and craft the furniture that equips our classrooms and offices. This is not because





we cannot afford to purchase these items from commercial suppliers. We do this because we believe in developing comprehensive practical skills in our students. When a student sits on a chair that was designed and built by their fellow students in the Woodwork and Furniture Design program, when they write on desks fabricated in the university's metalwork shop, when they walk through buildings constructed with blocks made on campus, they understand viscerally that they possess the skills to build a nation. This self-reliance model has attracted significant attention. Delegations from other universities tour our facilities and workshops, documenting our approach, asking questions about our processes, and seeking to replicate this model on their own campuses.

### 12.0 Student Innovation Excellence: Team MedPatch's Triumph

Research and innovation at TAU are not confined to faculty offices and established researchers. Our students are already making their mark on the national stage, demonstrating that the innovative mindset we cultivate produces tangible results even before graduation.

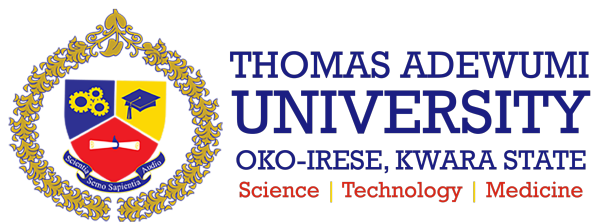
In June 2025, at the AFRETEC-UNILAG 2025 Innovation-in-Health Challenge Grand Finale, our student team of 4, **Team MedPatch** (Oluwatodunni Obafemi (400 Level, Software Engineering) – Team Lead; Eniola Fonahanmi-Ibris (500 Level, Nursing Science) – Researcher; Favour Adeoye (200 Level, Nursing Science) – Researcher; Erioluwa Ajayi (300 Level, Computer Science) – Developer), secured Second Place and won a ₦1.5 million grant, competing against fourteen multidisciplinary teams from nine prestigious Nigerian universities including the University of Lagos, University of Ibadan, University of Benin, University of Jos, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, University of Medical Sciences Ondo, McPherson University, and Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun. This competition, organized by InnovateUNILAG (Innovation and Technology Management Office) in collaboration with the College of Medicine and Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Lagos, attracted 102 teams comprising 339 students from 24 universities across Nigeria. From this highly competitive field, TAU students made it to the Top 14 teams that advanced to the Grand Finale and emerged as the second-best innovation in the entire country.

#### MedPatch: Africa's First IoT-Enabled Smart Microneedle Patch

What did our students create? MedPatch is Africa's first IoT-enabled smart microneedle patch, capable of measuring disease biomarkers in real-time and transmitting critical health data to caregivers and medical professionals. This groundbreaking innovation addresses the widespread challenge of late diagnosis of treatable diseases such as malaria and diabetes across Africa. Think about the significance of this solution: In many African communities, people die from diseases that are entirely treatable, but only if diagnosed early. The challenge is not that treatments don't exist; the challenge is late detection. MedPatch solves this problem by providing continuous, real-time monitoring of health biomarkers, enabling early intervention before diseases become life-threatening. The team built a functional Arduino-powered sensor prototype and trained machine learning models to accurately interpret disease signals. This is not theoretical research; this is a working prototype combining hardware engineering, software development, artificial intelligence, and clinical insight. Their solution represents accessibility (affordable for African contexts), intelligence (AI-powered analysis), and scalability (can be mass-produced and distributed) in one integrated system.

The students received invaluable mentorship from Dr. Farohunbi Samuel, Director of Human Capacity Development at TAU and the Director who secured the ₦53 million FSI-Mentors Without Borders grant for our university, and Miss Aimas-Love Lily, Graduate Assistant in Computing Science, both of whom provided technical and strategic guidance throughout the research and development process.

When Team MedPatch presented at the Grand Finale on June 25, 2025, at the Old Great Hall of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Idi-Araba, they competed before a distinguished panel of judges and emerged victorious with ₦1.5 million in grant funding to further develop their innovation.



This is what Thomas Adewumi University produces: students who don't just study healthcare challenges, they engineer solutions. Students who don't just learn about artificial intelligence they deploy it to save lives. Students who don't wait for someone else to solve Africa's problems, they solve them themselves.

This summer, we launched the SDGs Summer School, a free program sponsored by Thomas Adewumi University, Google Research, and Google's ExploreCSR initiative. This program, themed "Harnessing AI for Inclusive and Quality Education," brought together undergraduate and graduate students from across Nigeria for an intensive three-day program featuring hands-on experiences with artificial intelligence tools, practical workshops on scaling ideas and projects to Minimum Viable Products (MVPs), networking with technology leaders and innovators, and collaborative problem-solving focused on achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This is education in action. This is research translated into community impact. This is knowledge deployed in service to society.

### **13.0 To our Graduating Class of 2025: Your Moment Has Arrived**

Our 63 distinguished graduands of the Class of 2025, as you sit here today in your academic regalia, surrounded by family members who supported you, friends who journeyed with you, and faculty who taught you, I want you to fully understand the magnitude of what you have accomplished and the significance of the moment you are experiencing. You have not merely earned degrees from Thomas Adewumi University. You have helped build Thomas Adewumi University. When you arrived on this campus as fresh students, Thomas Adewumi University was still proving itself. We had potential, we had plans, we had vision, but we were unproven. You chose to believe in this vision when others expressed scepticism. You chose to enrol when safer options existed. You chose to stay when challenges arose. And through your academic performance, your engagement in campus activities, your participation in research projects, your representation of TAU in competitions and conferences, you helped prove that this university is excellent. The six first-class graduates from our inaugural convocation last year and the outstanding results that you, the Class of 2025, have achieved demonstrate conclusively that Thomas Adewumi University produces graduates of the highest calibre.

### **You Are Uniquely Prepared for the Future**

The education you received at Thomas Adewumi University has equipped you in ways that distinguish you from graduates of other institutions. Let me be specific about your competitive advantages:

- i. Through our international partnerships, you have obtained microcredentials from MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Berkeley, and Yale, world-class certifications from Alison, RUDN professional university, Saylor Academic, Google, etc that complement your classroom training. Our Coursera collaboration provided you additional industry certifications, while partnerships with Microsoft, IBM SkillsBuild, and MIT OpenCourseWare through our Global Campus initiative democratize access to cutting-edge knowledge.
- ii. Through the FSI innovation hub you have received intensive mentorship from professionals at Microsoft, Google, and Atlassian, the companies that are literally defining the digital economy. You worked on real-world technology projects under the guidance of global experts. That is not theoretical education; that is apprenticeship with the masters.
- iii. Those of you graduating with degrees in Accounting, Business Administration and Economics carry professional certifications are not just academically qualified; you are professionally certified and globally competitive. You are chartered by ICAN. When you walk into corporate boardrooms in Lagos, London, or New York, you carry credentials that command respect.
- iv. Through our partnerships with edX and Coursera, RUDN Professional University Faculty, you have had access to microcredentials, professional certificates, and specialized courses from MIT, Harvard,



Stanford, Columbia, Berkeley, Google, Amazon, IBM, and Microsoft. A student sitting in a classroom in Oko-Irese earned the same MicroMasters credential from MIT that a student sitting in Cambridge, Massachusetts earned. That is the democratization of education. That is the elimination of geographical privilege. That is the future.

- v. Through our solar farm, you walked past a 214-kilowatt renewable energy installation every day, witnessing functional sustainability in action. You ate food grown on campus farms. You studied using furniture crafted in campus workshops. You lived in a 500-student residence hall that was locally engineered and constructed. You experienced a model of self-reliance and sustainability that most students only read about in textbooks.
- vi. Through our ₦53 million FSI Innovation Centre, equipped with cutting-edge technology and Starlink internet, you witnessed what happens when global partners recognize excellence and invest in it. You saw proof that when an African university demonstrates innovation and commitment, the world pays attention and provides resources.

### **The World You Are Entering**

You are graduating into a world that is vastly different from the one that existed when you enrolled. Artificial intelligence is reshaping entire industries, eliminating some jobs while creating entirely new categories of work. Climate change is forcing fundamental rethinking of agriculture, energy, transportation, and urban planning. Global health crises have demonstrated our interconnectedness and our vulnerabilities. Economic transformation driven by digital technologies is disrupting traditional business models and creating unprecedented opportunities for innovation. This world does not need people who merely memorized information. It needs problem-solvers who can think critically, adapt quickly, and create innovatively. It needs ethical leaders who understand that success is measured not just by personal wealth but by positive impact on communities. It needs global citizens who can collaborate across cultures and communicate across languages.

That is what we prepared you to be. That is who you are.

### **Your Charge: Be Excellent, Be Innovative, Be Impactful**

As you leave this campus and enter the world, I charge you with three imperatives:

#### **First: Pursue Excellence Relentlessly**

Do not settle for mediocrity. Do not accept "good enough." The Thomas Adewumi University brand that you now carry is one of distinction, innovation, and exceptional achievement. You graduated from an institution ranked 5th among private universities in Nigeria while still in its infancy. You earned degrees from a university that achieved in four years what others take decades to accomplish. You carry certifications and credentials from CIMA, ICAN, edX partners like MIT and Harvard, and Coursera's global network. Wherever you find yourself, in corporate boardrooms at Dangote Industries or Shell, in research laboratories at teaching hospitals or pharmaceutical companies, in engineering firms building infrastructure across Africa, in law chambers defending justice, in technology startups creating the next unicorn, in media organizations shaping public discourse, in international organizations like the United Nations or World Bank, or in your own entrepreneurial ventures, let excellence be your signature. When others produce good work, produce exceptional work. When others meet expectations, exceed them. When others say "it cannot be done," be the one who demonstrates how it can be done.



## **Second: Be Innovators and Problem-Solvers, Not Just Employees**

We did not educate you to become job seekers; we educated you to become job creators. We did not train you to fit into existing systems; we equipped you to design better systems. Nigeria faces enormous challenges: infrastructure deficits, healthcare access gaps, educational quality concerns, energy insufficiency, food security vulnerabilities, and technological adoption barriers. Africa faces even greater challenges: poverty affecting hundreds of millions, climate change threatening agricultural productivity, governance challenges undermining development, and a youth bulge that could become either a demographic dividend or a demographic disaster depending on whether young people can find meaningful opportunities. These challenges are not obstacles, they are opportunities. Every problem represents a market need. Every gap represents a business opportunity. Every inefficiency represents potential for innovation. When you see communities without reliable electricity, do not merely lament the problem, remember our 214-kilowatt solar farm and design renewable energy solutions. When you see healthcare facilities struggling with diagnostics, remember your training in medical laboratory science and physiotherapy and create better systems. When you see small businesses failing because of poor financial management, remember your ICAN training and provide accounting and business advisory services. When you see communication breakdowns across cultures, remember your training by RUDN Professional University, Russia and build bridges.

Some of you will join existing organizations and rise to leadership positions through your competence and innovation. Others will launch startups that will grow into major enterprises, creating jobs for thousands. Some will conduct research that produces patents and breakthrough discoveries. Others will use technology to solve problems in agriculture, healthcare, education, and governance. Whatever path you choose, do not be passive participants in the economy. Be active shapers of it.

## **Third: Lead with Integrity and Give Back**

Success without integrity is ultimately failure. Wealth without positive impact is ultimately poverty of purpose. Achievement without contribution is ultimately selfishness. As you achieve success in your careers, and I have no doubt you will achieve remarkable success, remember the communities that nurtured you, the families that sacrificed for you, the teachers who invested in you, and the nation that provided you opportunities. Give back. Mentor younger students. Invest in your communities. Support educational initiatives. Create opportunities for others. Use your skills and resources to address social challenges. Remember that Thomas Adewumi University exists because our Founder and Chancellor, Engr. Dr. Johnson Adewumi, chose to give back to his community. After earning his degrees from Imperial College London, he could have remained in the United Kingdom or pursued opportunities anywhere in the world. Instead, he returned to Oko-Irese, invested in education, and built this university. His example should inspire you.

When you become successful, when you are leading corporations, running successful businesses, holding prestigious positions, remember to give back. Establish scholarship funds for students who cannot afford university education. Mentor young entrepreneurs. Invest in research. Support community development projects. Contribute to making Nigeria and Africa better.

## **You Are Not Ordinary**

Let me be very clear with you: You are not ordinary graduates from an ordinary institution going into ordinary careers. You are extraordinary individuals from an exceptional institution embarking on journeys that will transform industries, communities, and nations.

You graduated from Thomas Adewumi University. An institution that:

- Achieved in four years what was planned for twenty-five years



**THOMAS ADEWUMI  
UNIVERSITY**  
OKO-IRESE, KWARA STATE  
Science | Technology | Medicine

- Secured the first Nigerian university partnership with Mentors Without Borders, receiving ₦53 million in investment
- Won Erasmus+ Mobility funding from the European Union, enabling exchanges with Poland's Lodz University of Technology
- Secured over \$200,000 in grants from Google
- Produced students who won ₦1.5 million at the national AFRETEC-UNILAG Innovation-in-Health Challenge, placing 2nd among 102 teams from 24 universities
- Was designated a Google Campus
- Partnered with Harvard and MIT through edX
- Partnered with CIMA UK to provide master's-equivalent certifications
- Ranked 5th among private universities nationwide
- Achieved 100% NUC accreditation success rate
- Established a College of Medicine ahead of schedule
- Created a School of Postgraduate Studies with 27 programs
- Built partnerships with Bowie State University, and the University of Central Oklahoma in the USA, and University of Johannesburg.
- Operates a 214-kilowatt solar farm serving the entire campus community
- Produces 75% of campus food through sustainable agriculture
- Requires graduates to be fluent in four UN languages

When you walk into any space be it academic, professional, entrepreneurial, or civic, carry this awareness: You represent an institution that does not follow; we lead. We do not imitate; we innovate. We do not wait for permission; we create possibilities. Others may have attended larger universities. Others may have attended older institutions. But no one received the kind of comprehensive, globally-connected, innovation-focused, sustainability-centered, technology-enabled education that you received at Thomas Adewumi University.

Some of you came to TAU with uncertainty, wondering whether this young university could truly provide quality education. Today, you leave with certainty, a certainty about your capabilities, certainty about your preparation, certainty about your future. Some of you faced challenges during your time here, financial difficulties, family issues, academic struggles, personal setbacks. But you persevered. You completed your programs. You earned your degrees. That perseverance is perhaps the most valuable lesson you learned, that with determination, support, and hard work, obstacles can be overcome. Some of you flourished here, earning top grades, winning competitions, publishing research, leading student organizations, representing TAU at conferences. Continue to flourish. Continue to lead. Continue to excel.

All of you, whether you struggled or sailed through, whether you found every course easy or fought for every grade, whether you always knew your path or are still discovering it, all of you are now Thomas Adewumi University graduates. That is an identity you will carry for life. Make us proud.

#### **14.0 Acknowledgments: Gratitude to those who made this possible**

This remarkable journey, from a vision in the heart of one man to a university graduating its second cohort of excellent students, would not have been possible without extraordinary people making extraordinary commitments.

**To Our Founder and Chancellor:** Engr. Dr. Johnson Bamidele Adewumi, your vision created Thomas Adewumi University. Your investment, financial, intellectual, and emotional sustains it. Your unwavering commitment to quality, your insistence on excellence, your willingness to invest in cutting-edge infrastructure and global partnerships, and



your dedication to giving back to your community have created an institution that will transform lives for generations. When the primary school you attended as a child had disappeared, you did not simply lament you built a new one. When that primary school needed a secondary school, you built one. When Nigeria needed more universities committed to innovation and excellence, you built Thomas Adewumi University. This is legacy-building at its finest. On behalf of the entire TAU community, I express our deepest gratitude.

**To Our Co-Founder:** Dr. Mrs. Gloria Adewumi, your support for this vision has been unwavering. Your presence in major university events, your engagement with students, your encouragement of our initiatives, and your partnership with our Founder in this educational mission have been invaluable. Thank you for your gracious commitment to Thomas Adewumi University.

**To Our Pro-Chancellor and Governing Council:** Professor Victor Olanrewaju, our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, your leadership of our governance structures ensures that we maintain the highest standards of institutional management. To all members of our Governing Council and Board of Trustees, including Professor Emeritus Luke Edungbola who is present here today, your guidance, oversight, and strategic direction have been instrumental in our rapid growth and sustained excellence. Thank you.

**To Our Traditional Rulers and Community:** His Royal Highness, Oba Victor Olawuyi, the Oloko of Oko-Irese Kingdom, and his Olori, Grace Olawuyi, you have welcomed this university into your domain and supported us as we have grown. The people of Oko-Irese and surrounding communities have embraced TAU, providing local support, participating in our outreach programs, and taking pride in having this institution in their midst. We are grateful for this acceptance and support.

**To Our Faculty and Staff:** To every member of our teaching faculty, every Professor, every Doctor, every Mr., every Mrs., every instructor who stood before students and imparted knowledge, challenged thinking, guided research, mentored projects, and demonstrated that excellence is possible, you are the true heroes of this story. To our administrative staff, our support services personnel, our maintenance teams, our security personnel who keep our campus safe 24 hours daily, our catering staff who ensure students are well-fed, our facility managers who maintain our infrastructure, our ICT professionals who keep our systems running, our librarians who manage our knowledge resources, our student affairs professionals who support student wellbeing, every single person who contributes to making Thomas Adewumi University function, thank you. Your work may not always be visible, but it is always essential.

**To Our Partners:** To Financial Services Innovators and Mentors Without Borders for selecting TAU as the first Nigerian university for your transformative tech mentorship program and investing ₦53 million in our students' futures.

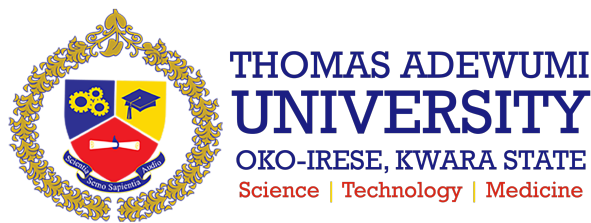
To Google Research for giving us over \$300,000 in grant and partnering with us on the SDGs Summer School.

To edX, founded by Harvard and MIT, for partnering with us to bring world-class microcredentials to our students.

To Coursera for partnering with us to provide industry certifications and skills training.

To the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) UK for the partnership that provides our graduates with globally recognized professional certifications.





To Bowie State University in Maryland, USA, for the partnership that creates pathways for our students to pursue graduate education in America.

To Lodz University of Technology (Politechnika Łódzka) in Poland and the European Union Erasmus+ programme for the mobility funding that enables our students and staff to experience European higher education and build international collaborations.

To Microsoft, IBM, Huawei, MIT OpenCourseWare, Saylor Academy, and all our other technology and educational partners who have made world-class resources available to our students.

To the members of the KU8+ Consortium, for your collaboration and collegiality.

To every institution and organization that has partnered with Thomas Adewumi University, thank you for believing in our vision and contributing to our success.

**To Parents and Guardians:** To every parent and guardian who entrusted us with your children's education, who made financial sacrifices to pay school fees, who encouraged your children during challenging times, who visited during visiting weekends, who prayed for your children's success, who believed in Thomas Adewumi University when it was young and unproven today, we return your children to you transformed. They arrived as students; they leave as graduates. They came with potential; they depart with credentials. They entered seeking education; they exit equipped to contribute to national development and global progress. We hope we have proven worthy of your trust. We hope your sacrifices have been worthwhile. We hope you are proud of what your children have accomplished and of the institution that partnered with you in their development.

**To Our Graduands:** And finally, to our 63 distinguished graduands of the Class of 2025: Thank you for choosing Thomas Adewumi University. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your excellence. Thank you for helping to build the reputation of this young institution. Thank you for the memories you have created and the legacy you leave behind. You will always be part of the TAU family. As you go forth from here, remember that these gates remain open to you. Come back and visit. Come back and share your successes. Come back and mentor current students. Come back and contribute to the continued growth of this institution that contributed to your growth. We will watch your careers with great interest and pride. We will celebrate your successes. We will support you when we can. We will forever be your academic home.

### 15.0 Conclusion: The Best Is Yet to Come

As I bring this address to a close, I want to leave you with one final thought: As remarkable as our achievements have been over the past four years, as extraordinary as the transformation we have witnessed this past year has been, as exceptional as the Class of 2025 is, the best of Thomas Adewumi University is yet to come. We are not done innovating. We are not finished partnering. We are not satisfied with our current level of achievement. We will continue to expand our academic programs, offering new degrees in emerging fields that the Nigerian economy and global marketplace demand. We will continue to strengthen our research capacity, producing discoveries that solve real problems and publishing findings in prestigious international journals. We will continue to deepen our community impact, extending the benefits of our expertise and resources to surrounding communities and to Nigeria as a whole. We will continue to build partnerships, with universities worldwide, with technology companies, with professional bodies, with international organizations, that create opportunities for our students and advance our institutional mission.



We will continue to invest in sustainability, expanding our solar energy capacity, increasing our agricultural production, and modelling the green economy that Africa must build. We will continue to attract and develop excellent faculty, ensuring that our students learn from the best minds in their fields. We will continue to improve our infrastructure, building new facilities, laboratories, and learning spaces that support world-class education. We will continue to innovate in pedagogy and curriculum, ensuring that what we teach and how we teach it remains relevant to the needs of students and society.

### **To Those Observing Our Trajectory**

To those who once doubted whether a university in Oko-Irese could achieve excellence, look at our graduates, look at our accreditations, look at our rankings, look at our partnerships. The evidence speaks for itself.

To those who questioned our rapid growth, understand that we did not grow recklessly; we grew strategically. Every program was properly planned and adequately resourced. Every partnership was carefully negotiated and mutually beneficial. Every expansion was based on demonstrated capacity and sustainable commitment.

To those who wondered if we could maintain quality while expanding quickly, our 100% NUC accreditation success rate, our national rankings, and the achievements of our graduates provide your answer.

To prospective students and their families considering Thomas Adewumi University for future enrolment, know that you will be joining an institution that is ascending, an institution that is innovative, an institution that delivers on its promises.

To peer institutions in Nigeria and across Africa, know that Thomas Adewumi University is eager to collaborate. We believe that Nigerian universities rising together through collaboration is better than competing in isolation. The partnerships we have built within the KU8+ Consortium demonstrate this commitment. We are happy to share our experiences, learn from yours, and work together to elevate the quality of higher education across our continent.

### **The TAU Story Continues**

The story of Thomas Adewumi University is ultimately a story of vision meeting execution, of dreams backed by hard work, of excellence pursued with unwavering determination. It is a story that proves that with the right leadership, adequate investment, committed faculty and staff, excellent students, and supportive partners, a young institution can achieve what established institutions take decades to accomplish. It is a story that demonstrates that geography is not destiny that a university in Oko-Irese can partner with MIT to bring their course material to learners from sub-Saharan African countries, can attract ~~N~~500 million in international investment, can rank among the top private universities nationwide, and can produce graduates who compete globally. It is a story that shows that African universities can lead in innovation, in sustainability, in technology adoption, and in preparing students for the future, that we need not always be followers looking to the West or East for models but can create our own models rooted in our contexts while meeting international standards.

This is the Thomas Adewumi University story. This is our story. This is your story.

### **Class of 2025: Go Forth and Make History**

And so, my dear graduands of the Class of 2025, as you prepare to cross this stage, receive your certificates, take photographs with your families, celebrate with your friends, and then depart from this campus to begin the next chapters of your lives, carry with you these truths:



You are exceptionally prepared. You are globally competitive. You are TAU products, products of an institution that defies limitations, exceeds expectations, and creates possibilities.

The world is waiting for your contributions. Industries need your innovations. Communities need your service. Nigeria needs your leadership. Africa needs your excellence.

Go forth and succeed brilliantly. Build thriving careers. Launch impactful enterprises. Conduct groundbreaking research. Provide excellent service. Lead with integrity. Give back generously. Make us proud.

Go forth and remember always that you are not just graduates of Thomas Adewumi University—you are ambassadors of excellence, carriers of innovation, and agents of transformation.

Go forth and conquer.

Congratulations, Class of 2025! May excellence be your constant companion. May innovation guide your paths. May integrity anchor your choices. May impact define your legacy.

God bless you. God bless Thomas Adewumi University. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you.

Professor Francisca Onalapo Oladipo, Ph.D., FNCS, FASI, FPASRC  
Vice-Chancellor  
Thomas Adewumi University  
Oko-Irese, Kwara State, Nigeria

Yeye Atunluse of Oko-Irese