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ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP SESSION.

The event began in the afternoon with Dr. Weche making an introduction about the host of the session, AKAD Africa. This was necessary for most of those present were new to the group. He talked about the mentoring that is done on the youth and the numerous opportunities offered to them to meet, interact and learn from great people in the society. Having touched on the opportunity to receive higher education from universities across the globe, Dr. Weche requested that everybody introduce himself/herself and state why they think they are worth investing millions of dollars in.

As the exercise continued, the few empty seats remaining were quickly filled by both fellow peers and parents.



Jesse, Brian, Christel, Ian and Semo make their pitch once more.

Had we known the seriousness of the exercise, some of us would have taken it more seriously. Five people were selected due to their outstanding presentation of themselves to give a pitch of their own worth once more – an envious opportunity. This was the first lesson of the afternoon session: stand out amidst the crowd and stand a chance to go far.

Dr. Angele Gichaga, one of the mentors



"Life is not that serious!" Dr. Angela advises the youth.

of the AKAD Group, took the stage next. She led those present in discussions among small groups that enabled us to know each other well: our lives' ambitions as well as the things that we find are hindering us from achieving them. As presentations from the groups were being made, we came to realize that, generally, everyone has the same goal: to better the state of our nation, whether it is through technology, financial management or environmental conservation.

After this, Dr. Angela entered another session of her presentation where she gave advice on life matters. Acknowledging that she was talking to the youth, most of who had just completed high school or were in their first years of university, she took it upon herself to share what she would have done differently when she was that age. The list turned out to be quite a surprise as she mentioned that she would have had laughed more, taken more time to relax and enjoy life. She stressed on the importance of having the right attitude when facing different challenges in life. She called it the "why not?" attitude. This, she said, is very important for one can be taught skills but the right attitude cannot be taught. One has to develop it himself. She urged us to make decisions, even if wrong for "a wrong decision is better than NO decision". The lesson that stood out most for me was that as an individual, as I progress in life, I have to define my boundaries, know which line I cannot cross and stick to it despite the hurdles that I will face.

Soon afterwards, Dennis Kageni, a student at Minerva Schools, got his turn to drive the conversation. He spoke of a



Dennis shares his knowledge about Minerva Schools.

wonderful institution that offers admission to all students across the globe, with no racial or gender discrimination. An opportunity to live and study in seven cities in the world and graduate with both an undergraduate and masters degree. The admission process did not focus on academic achievement only but considered all aspects of an individual. Dennis urged all to apply and join him in the fall. Minerva, together with AKAD Group will be offering five scholarships annually to applicants who show that they want it and stand out. These five will be chosen from a list of fifteen who will be suggested. This, as expected, got everybody excited.

As the event came to a close, Dr. Weche shared the five key factors that universities look for when considering admission of applicants: leadership skills, academic potential, the ability to bring a solution for a problem in the society, a great reference and a record of community service involvement. He urged that everybody implement what they had learned as he welcomed all to tea and opened the session for networking.

A wonderful way to invest an afternoon in, indeed! The opportunity to learn from such great mentors is thrilling. One thing that I easily took to after listening to Dr. Angela speak was that if one has the capability to do something, then they can do it better and faster thereby saving on the greatest resource: time. Whether doing chores in the house, running an errand writing this essay, I strive to be more efficient. Dr. Weche stressed on the importance of standing out by presenting yourself in a manner suggesting that if somebody did not invest even a second of their time in you,

they would be at a loss. This, at first, struck me as a bit difficult but I have come to realize that it is a manner of knowing my strengths and bringing them out, letting one know just how valuable I stand to be if they take a chance on me.