

Schlumberger Foundation Increases Number of Postgraduate Grants

The Foundation has funded 155 new Fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year and renewed another 135, further strengthening its Faculty for the Future community of women leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

The Schlumberger Foundation has announced the 2015-2016 Faculty for the Future fellowships to support women scientists and engineers from the developing world to pursue postgraduate studies at leading universities worldwide. The Foundation has awarded new fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year to 155 women, and has also extended 135 existing grants.

Fellowships are awarded based on applicant's leadership qualities, academic ability, and engagement towards science and education as a development tool in their home countries. This year the program attracted a total of 1166 new and renewal applications. The selected recipients are pursuing PhD or post-doctoral studies at 114 host universities in 17 countries, performing research into a wide range of disciplines related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

"We are delighted to see the Faculty for the Future Fellowships program continue to attract so many talented women," says Roseline Chapel, who has recently been appointed President of the Foundation. "It is exhilarating to see a large increase in the number of highly qualified women scientists and engineers reaching to the Foundation for support. Most of them have had to overcome many challenges to get where they are, and their motivation to pursue their research, play an active role in their home countries' development, and pave the way for more young women to follow, is a major source of inspiration to us."

Recipients of Faculty for the Future Fellowships have all achieved academic excellence at school and university, often despite considerable financial hardships and traditional barriers to women's education. They are typically pursuing STEM-related research focused on a range of disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology, nanotechnology, sustainable energy; disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, agriculture and many more. After completion of their studies, Faculty for the Future Fellows return to their home countries where they contribute to economic, social and technological advancement through strengthening teaching and research faculties of their home institutions, and also taking positions in governments or the public sector where their newly acquired technical and scientific skills can help provide evidence-based support for policy making.

"I am proud to have been instrumental in assisting the increase of technically talented women scientists and engineers from developing nations and emerging countries," says Sola Oyinlola, who has been a director of the Foundation for nine years and was its President for the last four years. "We have built a growing and vibrant community of 560 Fellows, who meet and communicate regularly to support each other in their careers. In addition to supporting development when they return home, they act as role models to encourage more young women to pursue scientific careers".

For more information visit www.facultyforthefuture.net