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PRESS RELEASE: THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY APPOINTS PROFESSOR CAROL ARINZE-UMOBI AS ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Governing Council of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, has today appointed Professor Carol Chinyelugo Arinze-Umobi as Acting Vice-Chancellor following the end of the tenure of Professor Joseph I. Ikechebelu.

In a letter signed by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Barrister Olugbenga M. Kukoyi, it reads "By Section 5(13) of the Act, your term of appointment shall not exceed a maximum period of six (6) months, or until a substantive Vice-Chancellor is appointed, whichever comes first".

Professor Carol C. Arinze-Umobi resumed on Monday, 19th May 2025.

PROF. IKECHEBELU HANDS OVER TO PROF. ARINZE-UMOBI AS ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR OF UNIZIK

In a ceremony marked by warmth and collegiality, Professor Joseph I. Ikechebelu has formally handed over leadership to Professor Carol Arinze-Umobi as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

The brief handover event was held on Monday 19th May 2025, at the Vice-Chancellor's office and was attended by principal officers of the University, including the Acting Registrar, Mr. Victor Modebelu and the University Bursar, Mr. Gozie Egwuatu. Also present were key directors from various departments and units.

In his valedictory remarks, Prof. Ikechebelu expressed gratitude to God for guiding him through his six-month tenure and reflected on his accomplishments under the BLESSeD Vision for the university. Notable achievements include the construction of a new perimeter

fence, renovation of the university's beautiful gate, improvement in power supply, digitization of academic records, commissioning of a new hostel block, and enhanced campus security.

He also highlighted a major milestone during his tenure, the visit of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, who commissioned the newly completed building of the Emeka Anyaoku Institute for International Studies and Diplomacy on May 8, 2025.

Prof. Ikechebelu expressed deep appreciation to the President, the Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, the Pro-Chancellor, Barrister Olugbenga Kukoyi, and members of the Governing Council for their unwavering support.

Quote:— "The hand that cuts another's wings will never touch the sky"—**Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Bonachristus Umeogu**

<p>In her remarks, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Carol Arinze-Umobi, expressed deep gratitude to God Almighty for the privilege of being appointed to serve in this capacity. She extended her sincere appreciation to the outgoing Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ikechebelu, for the comprehensive handing-over note, which she affirmed would serve as a valuable guide in her administration.</p> <p>Prof. Arinze-Umobi emphasized her commitment to a leadership vision centred on "<i>Feeling the Pulse of Students and Staff</i>,"</p>	<p>pledging to deliver her best within the shortest possible time. She prayed for the wisdom of Solomon to lead effectively and reiterated her resolve to run an inclusive administration. In closing, she called on all members of the university community to unite and support her leadership as the institution moves forward.</p> <p>The ceremony culminated with the formal presentation of handover documents to the new Acting Vice-Chancellor, symbolising a smooth transition of leadership at the helm of the university.</p>
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PROF. JOSEPH I. IKECHEBELU'S SPEECH AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY TO PROF. CAROL ARINZE-UMOBI AS ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR OF UNIZIK ON MONDAY, 19TH MAY, 2025.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a special moment for me and the New Acting Vice Chancellor - Prof. Carol Arinze-Umobi, as God in His wisdom has allowed us to repeat this handover in a different setting. Our story regarding this university administration will set a Guinness World Record for the most handovers between two people and counting. 2. Today, I am stepping aside as the Acting Vice-Chancellor, a day before the end of my tenure, and I do so with every sense of fulfillment and gratitude to God for his mercies, for good health, for a sound mind and wisdom to steer this ship of UNIZIK in the right direction. I give God all the glory. 3. Let me profusely thank Mr. President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR for his intervention in this University that restored us to the path of peace and harmony. I also thanked the Minister of Education, Dr. Olatunji Alausa, for his special affection for this University. | <p>Besides the intervention in UNIZIK on his assumption of office, he has ensured that we receive all that is due to us, including our nomination for special high-impact projects (SHIP) for Colleges of Medicine and others. The rest of the Ministry - HMSE, PS, Director of University Education, and others are appreciated for their contribution to our growth as a University.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. I especially thank our Pro-Chancellor, Barr Monsur Olugbenga Kukoyi, for piloting the affairs of the Council and the university with vigour and focus for excellence. The Council Members are highly appreciated for their contribution to the progress of our university. 5. I thank the Principal officers - Ag Registrar, Bursar and University Librarian for the cordial relationship we enjoyed. My Special Advisers (general duties & academics) who held my two hands and supported me strongly with sound advice for the good of our university, |
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my other SAVCS (ICT, DM and Security) and Directors/Deans/HODS are fully appreciated for their contributions to the success of my administration.

6. The members of the University Senate are specially appreciated for the robust, democratic and all-inclusive approach. We held regular senate meetings and deliberated extensively and maturely on university matters for our growth and development. May we continue in this positive spirit?

7. Today, I am privileged to transmit the powers conferred on me to our new Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Carol Arinze-Umobi, and to assure her of my availability and support for her administration. This is to ensure the continued growth and development of UNIZIK. The handover note will contain the details of the projects and activities we have embarked on under the BLESSeD UNIZIK

vision. There is more to do, and I request the Management, Staff and Students to support her for the greater good of our university.

8. Finally, I encourage our new Acting Vice-Chancellor to be all-inclusive in her Administration and remember that God has given her another opportunity to make an indelible mark in the lives of Staff and Students of our university.

9. I thank all the Staff and Students of our great university. Great Zikites

God Bless UNIZIK

God Bless You

Signed

Prof. Joseph I. Ikechebelu

Outgoing Acting Vice-Chancellor

ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR PLAYS HOST TO FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Professor Carol C. Arinze-Umobi, has played host to the Faculty of Social Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe university shortly after assuming duties.

Speaking at the courtesy visit, the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ezenwa Michael, congratulated Prof. Umobi on her recent appointment and expressed the faculty's commitment to supporting her leadership.

In her response, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Arinze-Umobi, thanked the faculty members and emphasized the importance of collaboration in advancing the university.

Reiterating her Vision for the university within her period as Acting Vice-Chancellor, "**FEELING THE PULSE OF STUDENTS AND STAFF**," Professor Arinze-Umobi highlighted the need for a unified approach to enhance the university's academic experience and institutional growth.

In attendance were: Dr. Kene Okeyika, Sub-Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Professor Amaka Metu, Head, Department of Economics; Professor Allen Adun, Head, Department of Mass Communication; Professor Stella Nnatu, Head, Department of Sociology; Professor J. C. Okafor, Head, Department of Political Science; Professor Chidozue Nwafor, Head, Department of Psychology; Professor Uju Ezenekwe,

Quote:— "The hand that cuts another's wings will never touch the sky"—**Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Bonachristus Umeogu**

Department of Economics; Professor Kelechi Ossayi, Department of Sociology; Professor Ezenwa Raph, Department of Political Science; Professor Odih Mike, Department of Political Science; Professor Martins Okeke, Department of Political Science; Dr. Blessing Onyima, Department of Sociology; Dr. Alex Agbenyi, Department of Political Science; Professor C. A. F. Okoye, Department of Political Science, Dr. Geraldine Nzeribe, Department of Psychology, Professor B.C. Uzoh, Department of Sociology,

Dr. Alex Orji, Department of Economics, Dr. Ugwu Titus, Department of Sociology, Dr. Emmanuel Ojukwu, Department of Political Science; Mr. Ukeje Chiemezie, Department of Economics.

The visit reinforced the faculty's dedication to fostering a collaborative and progressive academic environment under the new leadership of the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Arinze-Umobi.

SSANU, NAU CONGRATULATES PROF CAROL ARINZE-UMOBI ON HER APPOINTMENT AS AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Nnamdi Azikiwe University Branch, extends its warm congratulations to Professor Carol Chinyelugo Arinze-Umobi on her appointment as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

The congratulatory message was conveyed in a letter signed by Comrade Tevin Anyali, Secretary of SSANU UNIZIK, on behalf of the Branch Chairperson, Comrade Anthonia Chukwudi, the Branch Executive Committee, and all SSANU members.

The letter read in part: "We heartily congratulate Professor Carol Chinyelugo Arinze-Umobi on her appointment as Acting Vice-Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University

by the Governing Council of our esteemed institution."

In their message, SSANU UNIZIK also commended the University Senate and Governing Council for the rancor-free process leading to the appointment. This development heralds a new beginning for UNIZIK.

The association reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a strong working relationship with the Acting Vice-Chancellor and the university management, emphasizing collaboration to advance the welfare of its members and the overall development of the institution.

"We look forward to a good and robust working relationship with the Acting Vice-Chancellor", the statement concluded.

APPOINTMENT! APPOINTMENT!!

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof Carol Arinze-Umobi has appointed Dr. Emmanuel C. Ojukwu as Special Adviser on Media and Strategy.

Until he was appointed Special Adviser on Media and Strategy, he was the Director of Information and Public Relations and served in a similar role during Prof Esimone's administration.

The appointment took effect on Tuesday, 20th May 2025.
Dr Ojukwu will bring on board years of experience to this role.

PRESIDENT TINUBU COMMISSIONS EMEKA ANYAOKU INSTITUTE AT UNIZIK IN HISTORIC VISIT

History was made on Thursday, May 8, 2025, as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, paid a landmark visit to Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka to commission the newly completed building of the Emeka Anyaoku Institute for International Studies and Diplomacy.

The visit marks the first time President Tinubu has visited any Nigerian University since becoming president. The last time a sitting President visited Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, was in 2001 when former President Olusegun Obasanjo visited.

President Tinubu was warmly received by key dignitaries, including the University's Pro-Chancellor, Barrister Monsur Olugbenga Kukoyi; The then Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph I. Ikechebelu; Chief Emeka Anyaoku; the Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe; Sen. Dr. Ben Ndi Obi; Prof. Au Nnonyelu, Director, Emeka Anyaoku Institute for International Studies and Diplomacy, members of the Governing Council; deans of all 17 faculties; heads of departments; friends and benefactors of the university, directors and coordinators, staff, and jubilant students.

In his welcome address, the Former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ikechebelu expressed deep gratitude for the President's historic visit and praised the Emeka Anyaoku Institute as a fitting tribute to the renowned diplomat. He commended the President for his student-

friendly policies, including the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), and acknowledged the vital support of TETFUND in advancing higher education. Prof. Ikechebelu also thanked President Tinubu for his decisive intervention in November 2024, which he described as a rescue of the university system from "administrative rascality."

President Tinubu, visibly pleased by the reception, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to advancing education and creating opportunities for young Nigerians. He praised Chief Emeka Anyaoku for his pivotal role in Nigeria's democratic journey and global diplomacy, describing him as a model of statesmanship whose legacy will inspire generations. The President noted that the institute would serve as a hub for nurturing future leaders and diplomats committed to peace, dialogue, and international cooperation.

The President was accompanied by a high-powered delegation, including the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu, and several governors: Charles Soludo (Anambra), Hope Uzodinma (Imo), Peter Mbah (Enugu), Prof. Babagana Zulum (Borno), and Dapo Abiodun (Ogun). Ebonyi State was represented by its Deputy Governor, Princess Patricia Obila, while Gombe State Governor Inuwa Yahaya also attended. Other key figures included Minister of Works, Sen. Dave Umahi; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Amb. Bianca Ojukwu; Sen.

Enyinnaya Abaribe, Sen. Victor Umeh, Sen. Uche Ekwunife and Mr. Seyi Tinubu.

President Tinubu's visit to UNIZIK not only highlights his administration's recognition of education as a cornerstone of national development but also celebrates the legacy of

Chief Emeka Anyaoku as a symbol of excellence in diplomacy and public service. With the commissioning of the Emeka Anyaoku Institute, they will start running higher degree programs at the Institute later this year.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, UNIZIK, HOSTS INTERNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION

The Department of Educational Foundations at Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, successfully hosted an International Hybrid Conference with the theme: "*Transforming Education: Redesigning Teacher Education for Skill Alignment and Employability through Community-Driven Strategies.*"

Held at the ASUU Secretariat, UNIZIK, the conference brought together scholars, educators, and stakeholders to explore innovative strategies for advancing teacher education, fostering skill development, and enhancing employability through community-based approaches.

Representing the former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ikechebelu, was Professor Vivian Ngozi Nwogbo, former Dean of the Faculty of Education. She commended the department for recognizing the former Acting VC's contributions, noting that the conference theme resonates with the demands of the 21st-century digital era—marked by rapid technological advancements, digital literacy needs, and evolving workforce skills.

Professor Nwogbo highlighted the former Acting VC's transformative agenda, "BLESSED UNIZIK" (Beautify, Light-up, Excellence, Safe & Secure, Digitize UNIZIK), anchored on the

"HPS²" philosophy (Happy Productive Staff and Happy Progressive Students). She affirmed that significant progress has been made in actualizing this vision within just five months of his administration.

In her welcome address, the Head of Department, Dr. Ugochukwu Ifeyinwa Offor, praised the former Acting VC's leadership and outlined the department's challenges, including inadequate office space for lecturers, overstretched classroom facilities and limited postgraduate research hubs. To address these, the department seeks support for two key projects: A State-of-the-Art Academic Complex and Procurement of a Sienna Bus.

Professor Chinyere Augusta Nwajiuba, a renowned Sociology of Education expert from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), delivered the keynote address. She stressed the need for a practical, skills-driven curriculum in teacher education, citing its impact on climate change education in Nigerian primary and secondary schools.

She also emphasized collaboration among educators, continuous professional development for teachers and capacity-building programs to bridge skill gaps in higher education.

The conference featured a captivating debut performance by the Department of Educational Foundations Cultural Dance Group. There was a presentation of Awards to distinguished personalities, including Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu (former Acting VC, UNIZIK); HRM Barr. (Dr.) Emeka Onuora (Igwe Chinyereze II of Oraukwu Kingdom); Chief Gwacham Elochukwu (Ezeudo Ogbunike); Dr. Felix Chinedu Odimegwu (Commissioner for

Environment, Anambra State); Hon. ThankGod Kenechukwu Ibeh (CEO, Kenris Auto Global Ltd / Founder, Uzoamaka Foundation). Prior to the event, a courtesy visit was paid to the former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu.

The event concluded with a strong call for community-driven partnerships to revolutionize teacher education and align it with global employability demands.

UNIZIK FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS 11TH LECTURE SERIES, RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WITH MERIT AWARDS

The Faculty of Agriculture at Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK) held its 11th Faculty Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Ogechukwu Anulika Umeh from the Department of Crop Science and Horticulture, who delivered an insightful presentation titled ***"Improving Underutilized Indigenous Crops in South-Eastern Nigeria: A Panacea to Food Security"***.

The event, which took place at the Faculty of Agriculture Hall, also included a special ceremony honoring top-performing students with merit awards and cash prizes.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Gabriel Onyenegecha Ihejirika, Chairman of the Lecture Series, stressed the importance of leveraging Nigeria's rich biodiversity of underutilized indigenous crops to combat food insecurity. He highlighted the need for research, innovation, and policy reforms to maximize agricultural potential in the South-East region.

The former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu represented by Prof. Angela

Ufele-Obiesie, Director of Academic Planning, commended the Faculty of Agriculture for its contributions to national development through sustainable agricultural practices and academic excellence.

Prof. Cordelia Ebenebe, Dean of the Faculty, explained that the Young Geniuses Series was introduced to showcase the work of emerging scholars, including those yet to attain professorial rank. She praised Dr. Umeh for her impactful research and dedication to advancing agricultural science.

Seven high-achieving students received ₦50,000 each in recognition of their academic excellence:

1. Chioma Rita Nwosu – Agricultural Economics & Extension
2. Kamsiyochukwu Cynthia Odibe – Animal Science & Technology
3. Abidakun Peace Ayomiposi – Crop Science & Horticulture
4. Chisom Paschaline Atuili – Fisheries & Aquaculture
5. Jennifer Chinenye Obidike – Food Science & Technology

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6. Lilian Chiderah Mbagha – Forestry & Wildlife	- Partial scholarship for her MSc program in the
7. Adeyemo Ojo Miracle Oluwaseun – Soil Science & Land Resources Management	department.
Lilian Chiderah Mbagha, who graduated with a first-class honors (CGPA: 4.55) in Forestry and Wildlife, was awarded:	The 11th Faculty Lecture Series reinforced UNIZIK's commitment to agricultural innovation, youth empowerment, and food security solutions. By honoring both distinguished researchers and exceptional students, the event highlighted the university's role in shaping Nigeria's agricultural future.
- An additional ₦20,000 from her department.	
- Automatic internship placement with a partner organization.	

REVISED TARIFF FOR BOOK SALES

This is to inform the University Community that the University Management has approved a 10% increase in our operational tariff, effective this second semester of the 2024/2025 academic session. This increase will allow the Management of the University Bookshop to serve you better.

Please note:

- That it is against the University Policy/regulations for lecturers to sell books directly to students.
- Books, laboratory manuals and mimeographs are marketed only through the University Bookshop at Admin Block B.
- Monitors are on ground to fish out the defaulters for sanctions.

This information is conveyed to you for your kind attention and necessary action.

COLLECTION OF EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES FOR GRADUATES EXEMPTED FROM NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE BY THE NYSC FOR 2025 BATCH

All graduates of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka who were exempted from National Youth Service by the NYSC for 2025 Batch A Stream I Mobilization Exercise are hereby requested to collect their Exemption Certificates from the Exemption and Exclusion Unit of the Student Affairs Department on or before 31st October, 2025.

Please, note that the unclaimed certificates will be returned to NYSC Headquarters, Abuja as directed by NYSC.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026

The Embassy of Japan in Nigeria is pleased to announce the commencement of the application process for the 2026 Japanese Government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology MEXT) Scholarship Program.

This prestigious scholarship provides opportunities for study in Japan across various fields and specializations. Applications are welcome for:

- Research Students (Master's and Doctoral degrees)
- Undergraduate Students
- College of Technology Students
- Specialized Training College Students

We encourage both students and eligible staff with suitable qualifications to apply.

Detailed guidelines and application forms are available online at:
https://www.ng.emb*japan.go.jp/itpr_en/edu.html#Sch

The application deadline is **Friday, May 30, 2025**. All completed application packages must be received by the Embassy by the close of business on this date.

We appreciate your cooperation in promoting this valuable opportunity.

GET MORE NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

Website - www.unizik.edu.ng

Facebook - Nnamdi Azikiwe University or <https://www.facebook.com/unizikofficial>

X - @unizikofficial

IG - @officialunizik

BEREAVEMENT

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Carol Chinyelugo Arinze-Umobi regrets to announce the demise of:

- ❖ Dr. Fidelis Okechukwu Ezeokoli, who died in a ghastly motor accident on 18th April 2025. Until his death, he was a Reader and immediate past HOD of Department of Building, Faculty of Environmental Sciences. The burial will take place as follows:
Friday 17th May, 2024; Vigil mass at his compound, Ula Village Ekwulobia, Aguata L.G.A at 4.00pm
Saturday: 31st May 2025; Burial Mass at his compound at 9.00am.
Sunday: 1st June 2025; Thanksgiving Mass at Immaculate Heart Catholic Church, Ula, Ekwulobia at 9.00am.
- ❖ Ngwu Edwin, who died on 15th March 2025. Until his death, he was a Staff of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering. The burial arrangements will be communicated soon.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!!

Report cases of sexual harassment and sorting through the Vice-Chancellor's security lines:

07039023848 (SMS only)

07037587058 (Whatsapp only)

Email: info@unizik.edu.ng

This Bulletin is printed and published by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

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