Spring 2024 Pledge Ceremony at the AUN School of Law Auditorium, President DeWayne's Welcome

I stand before you today as the president of the American University of Nigeria, filled with immense pride and gratitude. It is an honor to address you on this special occasion, as we gather here to celebrate the spirit of commitment and dedication. Today, we come together to witness a significant moment in the lives of our students - the pledge ceremony. This ceremony marks a new chapter, a stepping stone toward a future filled with endless possibilities. It is a symbolic gesture of your commitment to academic excellence, personal growth, and the pursuit of knowledge. This, my dear students, is your launch into your university experience.

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to you for your tireless efforts, perseverance, and unwavering determination that brought you to this pivotal moment. You have embraced the challenges, overcome obstacles, and emerged stronger than ever. As you hear me say often, you are not here by accident, for you are here for "such a time as this." Today, we acknowledge and celebrate achievements, and we pledge our unwavering support as you embark on this transformative journey.

As the president of this prestigious institution, I am privileged to Witness the incredible potential that resides within every one of you. I have witnessed your passion for learning, your thirst for knowledge, and your desire to make a positive impact on the world. You all are in the right place, the impact that you will make will start in this little part of the world and cause ripples throughout the continent. I have seen your compassion. your empathy, and your commitment to social justice. You have demonstrated time and time again that you are not just students, but future leaders, change-makers, and trailblazers.

In this ever-changing world, we face countless challenges social, economic, and environmental. However, I am confident that with the education and values instilled in you by this university, you are equipped to navigate these challenges with grace and resilience. You will be provided with the tools to think critically, to solve problems, and to embrace diversity. You have been taught to question, to challenge, and to innovate. And most importantly, you have been encouraged to dream big and to never settle for mediocrity.

This university insists that all students get the U.S. approach to liberal arts through a robust general education program that will have all majors, from engineering to law students, taking classes to strengthen their knowledge of areas such as math, history, culture, and English language. This approach is to create a well-rounded student who is prepared for jobs that don't yet even exist. You will be ready to approach everything in life that comes your way with confidence and competence.

I want to reiterate my sincere congratulations to our students on this momentous occasion. Your dedication and hard work have led you to this day, and I do not doubt that the future holds

great success for every one of you. As the president of this university, I pledge my unwavering support to you, and I am confident that you will go on to achieve greatness. Thank you, and may this pledge ceremony be a source of inspiration and motivation as we embark on this remarkable journey together.

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AUN President Dr. DeWayne Frazier speaks to first-year students and families at the President

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to every one of you. It is with great joy and anticipation that we embark on this exciting journey together here at the only American University south of the Sahara and the first development university on the continent.

Starting university is a significant milestone in your life, marking the beginning of a new chapter filled with endless opportunities for growth, discovery, and success. It is a time to embrace new experiences, expand your knowledge, and forge lifelong friendships. As you step foot on our campus, you join a vibrant and diverse community of students, faculty, and staff who are passionate about learning, innovation, and making a positive impact on the world. AUN was built on the foundation of being an entrepreneurial institution and service-oriented. As I visit alums, I am proud to report how many run their own foundations and non-profits in communities.

Our university is a place where ideas are nurtured, minds are challenged, and dreams are realized. We are committed to providing you with a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and personal development. Our dedicated faculty members are experts in their fields and most have tremendous experience in industry, and they are eager to share their knowledge and mentor you throughout your academic journey.

As you settle into university life, remember that you are not alone. Our dedicated support services are here to assist you every step of the way, whether it's academic advising, career guidance, or personal counselling. We provide more services than most of all universities in Nigeria, and you are not simply a student ID here, you are a person, and one that matters to us. We encourage you to make use of these resources and reach out whenever you need assistance.

I want to assure you that your safety and well-being are our top priorities. We have implemented comprehensive measures to ensure a secure and healthy campus environment. In conclusion, I am truly honored to welcome you to our university family. Your presence enriches our community, and we are excited to witness your growth and achievements in the coming years. Embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, challenge yourself, and make the most of your university experience. Once again, welcome to our university. We are thrilled to have you here and look forward to an extraordinary journey together.