

NDILI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Year 1: Semester One
Program of Activities

Week 1:

Welcome Ceremony

Orientation Workshops on Program expectations, values, community norms, culture and understanding.

Introduction to African classical wisdom, traditions and philosophy

Walks and Hikes around campus

Personal vision statement writing workshop by each student

Week 2:

African and the World

Lecture Series 1:

The African Century; *“Reimagining the African Continent’s role in Global Affairs in the 21st Century”*

Workshop:

Mapping African Institutions of Influence — Round table discussion

Evening Roasted Yam Fireside Chat:

Visiting VIP to be arranged by Ndili Foundation

Week 3:

Leadership and Ethics

Leadership lab:

What is Moral Courage, What is wisdom — How can we become wise? Readings and discussions.

Mentorship Pairings:

Scholars are paired with mentors from all over the world.

Evening Roasted Yam Fireside Chat 1:

With a leading CEO or Impact Leader — topic *“Leading with Integrity”*

Case Study:

Dilemma of the Good Governor

Week 4:

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Lecture Series 2:

Design Thinking for African Solutions — Lecture by Justin Daab (Zoom)

Workshop:

Building a lean Startup — Jason Njoku and the story of “IROKO”

Panel Discussion:

African Tech and Innovation Space — Possibilities

Activity for the Week:

48 hour “Start-a-Project” Challenge — Scholars form teams and make presentations

Week 5:

Historical Identity and Decolonizing Thoughts

Core Seminar1:

Decolonizing the African Mind — Readings and Discussions

Guest Lecturer:

A Professor of African History from UNN on “*Pre-colonial African civilizations*” including the Songhai Empire, Mali Empire etc.

Film Screening:

“*The Great African Civilizations*” Henry Lois Gates

Creative Workshop:

Adinkra Symbols and Identity Collage, *Learning to do tie-and-dye*

Week 6:

Public Speaking and Communication

Workshop Training:

From Fear-to-Influence: Speaking with confidence

Activity: Program Scholars TED Talks: 5 minute talks on a subject each scholar is passionate about — *Presentations will be recorded for individual feedback and teachings*

Week 7

Mid-Semester Weekend Retreat

Off-Site Retreat:

For Reflection, bonding and spiritual renewal

Theme of Retreat:

Silence, stillness and visioning; Prayers and Gratitude discussions

Activities:

Daily Journaling, Hiking, Music, Storytelling

Week 8:

Systems Thinking and Policy Design

Lecture Series 3:

Understanding Systems; Health, Education, Urbanism

Workshop:

Policy Writing and Workshop — Solve a Government Challenge by authoring a policy memo

Round Table Discussions:

With NGO Leaders

Week 9:

Social Justice and Civic Engagement

Seminar Series:

Power, Justice and the Social Contract — Seminar delivered by Visiting Professor

Community Immersion:

Visit a School or a Healthcare Center to observe the issues, and challenges first hand from Administrators

Discussion:

Topic *“What does Dignity in Practice actually mean for us — How to we go about restoring or uplifting the Dignity of Man”*

Week 10:

Art, Culture and the Soul

Lecture Series 4:

"Cultures as Resistance" — Delivered by a visiting African Artist

Workshop:

Poetry, Photography and Music — All done as a form of self expression

Activity for the Week:

Scholar Exhibition Week

All Scholars work will be displayed in the lobby of the Ndili Scholars Program House

Week 11:

Building Lasting Impact

Lecture Series 5:

"How do we build Institutions that outlast us"

Evening Roasted Yam Fireside Chat:

Who are African Social Entrepreneurs and what are they working on now

Workshop:

Legacy letters; Write a letter to your 80 year old self — Describe what you would want your life to have looked like, looking backwards

Week 12:

Celebration and Challenge

Capstone Presentations:

Each Scholar will present a personal or a Group Project that they have been working on

Formal Dinner:

With Parents, Program Managers, Benefactors and Donors

Scholar End of Semester Ceremony:

Public Readings of Commitments to Excellence and Service

Other On-going Commitments:

1. Scholar-Led-Circles:

Weekly scholar led forums such as; Philosophy Circle, Book Club, Film Club, Entrepreneurship Club and Music Club

Sample Themes: *“What is a Good Society”* — Readings from Fanon, Mandela, Achebe

Mastermind Pods:

Scholars are grouped into 5 member pods for peer accountability, support and ideation

Faculty Dinners:

Intimate dinners with rotating University Professors to discuss their work, motivations and life journey

Wellness and Spirituality:

Early morning work outs with physical training instructors

Early morning prayer and meditation sessions led by local clergy and pastors

Group prayers every Saturday

Alumni Connect Series:

Virtual conversations by zoom with global African Alumni from sister programs such as Rhodes, Schwartzmann etc.