Student inspires Africans to enter world of computing

by STEPHEN DEAL

A GLASGOW University student is using maths and programming skills to train young scientists in Africa so others can follow a similar path to her.

Sofiat Olaosebikan, supported by students and staff at the university, has set up an initiative to teach and empower young scientists with the skills they need to help drive innovative research on the African continent.

Sofiat, a PhD computing science student at the college of science and engineering in Glasgow, said: 'There are lots of problems in Africa that need to be solved.

'My goal is to raise an army of intellectuals that are going to contribute to the development of Africa.'

Since 2018, Sofiat, with the support of the university's school of computing science, has delivered computer programming workshops in Nigeria and Rwanda through her PWSAfrica project (Programming Workshop for Scientists in Africa).

She added: 'For some of those we worked with, they saw where I am right now as something they couldn't achieve.

'But me standing in front of them teaching them something they aspire to know and the fact I was also in their shoes only a few years ago, they tell me felt like an inspiration to them.' Sofiat completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria before getting accepted to a fully funded masters programme at the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

In 2016, she moved to Glasgow after being accepted for a PhD at the university. Rachel Sandison, vice-principal of external relations, said: 'We are incredibly proud of Sofiat's achievements and ambitions.'

Passing on her skills: Sofiat Olaosebikan inside Glasgow University
PICTURE: MARTIN SHIELDS