

A UNIVERSITY DEGREE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT, KASU CAREER CENTRE UNIT HEAD TELLS KASU FUTURE GRADUATES



By: *Abigail Emmanuel Dankande*

At a time when many graduates struggle to secure employment despite holding academic qualifications, the Kaduna State University Career Services Centre is taking proactive steps to bridge the gap between education and employability.

This is coming as the Centre organized a workshop for final-year students themed “Navigating Multi-Tiered Employment Landscapes: What Every KASU Graduate Should Know.” The event brought together experts and students in an engaging session aimed at equipping future graduates with the skills, mindset, and confidence required to thrive in today’s competitive job market.

The workshop’s central message revolved around self-efficacy, a concept that underscores confidence built through mastery and competence expanded by Hadiza Ahmed Tukur, a Professor of Educational Psychology Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

She explained that many graduates fail to succeed not because they lack knowledge but because they lack confidence in their ability to apply what they know. She described self-efficacy as the belief in one’s capacity to organize and execute actions required to achieve specific goals, noting that it influences how individuals think, feel, and behave.

According to her, career confidence goes beyond ambition; it involves clarity of direction, alignment with personal values, and a strong sense of purpose. Employers, she stressed, are increasingly seeking individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also confident, adaptable, and self-aware.

She further explained that confidence develops through experience. Each success, no matter how small, builds trust in one’s abilities and encourages individuals to pursue greater opportunities. Conversely, a lack of confidence can lead to fear of failure, missed opportunities, and career stagnation.



Head of the Career Services Unit, Kantiok Shem Ishaku, emphasized a reality many students are often reluctant to confront: a university degree alone is no longer sufficient.



He noted that while graduates may possess certificates, many are still considered unemployable due to a lack of practical skills and professional competence. According to him, success in the modern workplace depends on the ability to perform, not just on academic credentials.

Highlighting pathways to professional relevance, he pointed to certifications offered by bodies such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, which, when combined with global qualifications like the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, significantly enhance graduates' competitiveness both locally and internationally.

He further explained that initiatives supported by the National Universities Commission have led to the establishment of Career Services Centres across tertiary institutions to help students transition smoothly into the workforce.

The session also addressed practical aspects of career readiness, including interview preparation, goal setting, and aligning career paths with individual strengths and aspirations. Students were reminded that confidence is not arrogance but a clear understanding of one's value and ability to contribute meaningfully.



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