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## Cerveau Initiative Donates to Support the DTI-A Scholarship Programme

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11/25

## Cerveau Initiative Donates to Support the DTI-A Scholarship Programme



In November, DTI-A welcomed renewed support from Cerveau Initiative for our scholarship programme for the 2026/2027 academic year. This marks the second year of partnership between the two organisations, reinforcing their shared commitment to expanding access to higher education for talented young people across Africa.

The funding, provided through Cerveau Initiative's Sonne Scholarship Programme, will support students from under-resourced backgrounds by covering tuition, accommodation, laptops, and essential study materials. This enables beneficiaries to focus fully on their studies while also developing leadership skills and preparing to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

The renewed support will also help expand the DTI-A Scholarship Programme, increasing the number of students who can benefit. The programme has already supported students across multiple tertiary institutions in Ghana, providing both financial assistance and opportunities for personal growth. It encourages academic excellence, leadership development, and community engagement, helping students become confident and capable future leaders.

DTI-A expresses sincere gratitude to Cerveau Initiative for its continued support, noting that this partnership goes beyond funding to represent a long-term investment in the potential of young Africans. Founded in 2019, Cerveau Initiative focuses on empowering disadvantaged individuals and communities through education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, working to create lasting positive change.

## DTI-A takes outreach to Potsin T. I Ahmadiyya SHS in the Central Region of Ghana

In November, DTI-A visited Potsin T.I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School in Ghana's Central Region to continue engaging students and supporting their personal development. The visit created a welcoming space for students to ask questions, share concerns, and reflect on the choices that shape their future.

The day began with a beautiful drama performance by the students, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. This lively display set a positive tone for the engagement, reflecting the students' commitment and curiosity to participate fully in the activities.

One of the main topics of discussion was peer influence. While students are often warned about the dangers of peer pressure, the team encouraged them to also recognise its positive side. Understanding how friends and peers can encourage good habits, stronger effort, and better decision-making is critical for young people, as the social circles they choose can greatly impact both their personal growth and academic success.

Students also heard from our founder, Nana Adjoa Hackman, on the topic 'What Is Holding You Back?' This session helped them identify habits that may slow them down—such as procrastination, perfectionism, fear of failure, or toxic relationships. By reflecting on these challenges, young people become better equipped to take intentional steps forward, build confidence, and develop the resilience needed to pursue their goals, even in the face of uncertainty.

The health segment formed another important part of the visit. Students received guidance on sexually transmitted diseases, the importance of abstinence, and how informed choices can protect their long-term health and ambitions. Equipping young people with accurate health information empowers them to make responsible decisions that safeguard their well-being and future opportunities.

To support students' thinking about life after school, the day concluded with career conversations. Volunteers from a variety of fields shared their experiences and answered students' questions. The students were deeply engaged, asking thoughtful questions and showing a strong desire to learn from the volunteers' insights. These interactions exposed them to diverse career paths, helping them explore their interests, set goals, and make informed decisions about their futures.

DTI-A expresses sincere appreciation to the school's leadership, particularly the counsellor, for their warm welcome and support throughout the visit.

The November outreach reinforced the importance of connecting young people with guidance, encouragement, and practical knowledge. By addressing peer influence, personal development, health, and career awareness, and through their own creativity and curiosity, the students demonstrated a readiness to learn and grow, building the foundation for confident decision-making and a successful future.





## Volunteer Spotlight



**Ivy Obeng**

My passion for mentoring was first sparked at university during a transformative “Mentoring Walk” led by Madam Bridget Dzogbenuku. I remember leaving that experience inspired yet wishing I had learned some of those powerful lessons earlier. That feeling has stayed with me, and it’s a big part of why DTI-A holds such a special place in my heart.

Growing up, I helped my mother sell beans and plantain, a humble beginning that shaped my sense of resilience. A neighbour once celebrated my admission to university with the words, “The daughter of a beans seller has made it!” That moment taught me that people often define you by your beginnings, but destiny is shaped by discipline, faith, and hard work. These values guided me through unexpected turns in life, from attending Presbyterian Women’s Training College to serving as SRC President and discovering my voice.

Professionally, I have spent over 13 years growing as an HR Leader, starting from my National Service at Ghana Oil Palm

Development Company (GOPDC) to leading talent development, organizational growth, and strategy at the executive level. My journey has shown me the power of early guidance. That is why when I encountered Nana Adjoa Hackman’s vision for DTI-A, it felt like the perfect opportunity to pass on the wisdom and mindset that changed my own life.

One moment from our outreach programmes stays with me. Nana Adjoa said to the students, “If all you ever see in your life is your immediate environment, then you have seen nothing at all.” Her words perfectly described my own journey, from a small community to corporate boardrooms, and now to entrepreneurship with SKAI Foods. Through DTI-A, I not only share my experiences, but I also learn from the students and fellow volunteers. It is truly a two-way journey of growth and discovery.

I am a proud volunteer for DTI-A because I believe we are not just mentoring, we are expanding horizons and shaping futures. Together, we can inspire a generation and build the Africa we believe in.

## Webinar: Overcoming setbacks and building resilience with Dr. Dania Brewster



On Thursday, November 13, 2025, DTI-A hosted an inspiring session in its Monthly Webinar Series on the theme “Overcoming Setbacks and Building Resilience.” The discussion was led by Dr. Dania Brewster, who shared her personal journey and insights on navigating challenges, particularly in the early stages of a career. The session highlighted a critical issue facing young people across Africa today: how to remain resilient in the face of setbacks and uncertainty.

Dr. Brewster emphasized that building resilience is rarely a solo endeavor. It thrives when individuals surround themselves with mentors, supportive friends, and trusted professionals who provide guidance, encouragement, and perspective, even on days when personal strength feels depleted. She recounted her experiences on the path to becoming a medical doctor, illustrating how setbacks could have derailed her ambitions. Instead, with a strong support system, she stayed grounded, focused, and hopeful, turning challenges into opportunities for growth.

A key takeaway from the session was the reminder that setbacks do not define you. Dr. Brewster encouraged participants to reframe difficulties as stepping stones and to intentionally build relationships and networks that nurture resilience. She stressed that every young person can cultivate the strength to overcome obstacles by combining internal determination with external support.

The session concluded with attendees reflecting on their own journeys and renewing their commitment to persevere. For many, it was a timely reminder that resilience is not innate, it is learned, fostered, and strengthened through community, guidance, and persistent effort toward one’s goals.

# SPOTLIGHT AFRICA



## **Audrey Maame Esi Swatson – Pilot**

From a young age, Audrey Maame Esi Swatson showed ambition and a willingness to dream big. Born on February 23, 1997, and raised in the town of Saltpond in Ghana's Central Region, she laid the foundation of her education at the University of Ghana Basic School. She went on to complete her secondary education at Ghana Christian International High School, where she studied General Science, a background that would support her later aviation ambitions.

At 18, determined to turn her dream of flying into reality, Audrey enrolled in Mach1 Aviation Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa for formal pilot training. Within a year, at age 19, she completed her first solo flight, demonstrating both skill and courage.

After obtaining her license, Audrey's professional journey continued as she joined Passion Air, a domestic airline in Ghana, where she serves as a First Officer, piloting the Dash 8 Q-400 aircraft. But her ambitions reached beyond simply flying: she founded her own company, Excel Aviation, with the vision of inspiring and enabling other young people, especially women, to pursue aviation careers.

Audrey often speaks about the crucial role of education, mentorship, and perseverance in her journey. Her message resonates especially with young people aspiring to defy societal expectations: she encourages them to set high standards, stay humble, build strong support networks, and remain committed to their dreams.

# NEW AGE CAREER OPTIONS



## WHO IS A DRONE PILOT?

A drone pilot is a professional trained to operate unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones. These pilots use drones for a wide variety of applications, ranging from photography and filmmaking to surveying, agriculture, inspection, and even delivery services. Unlike hobbyists, professional drone pilots are certified and skilled in navigating drones safely, following regulations, and using advanced technologies for specific industry needs.

## Why It Matters?

Drone technology is transforming industries worldwide. By providing aerial data, monitoring, and automation, drones save time, reduce costs, and enhance safety in areas where human access is limited or dangerous. For instance, in agriculture, drones help monitor crop health; in construction, they track project progress; in disaster response, they assess damages quickly. As businesses increasingly rely on drones, skilled pilots are in growing demand.

## What to study and learn

Becoming a drone pilot requires both technical knowledge and practical skills:

- Flight training: Understanding how drones operate, including controls, navigation, and weather considerations.
- Aviation regulations: Learning national and international drone laws to operate legally and safely.

- Technical skills: Knowledge of sensors, cameras, GPS, and software for mapping, surveying, or data analysis.
- Specialized knowledge: Depending on the industry—agriculture, cinematography, delivery logistics, inspection, or security.

## Potential roles and opportunities

Drone piloting opens doors to diverse career paths::

- Aerial Photography & Videography: Working with media, films, weddings, or advertising.
- Surveying & Mapping: Supporting construction, mining, and environmental studies.
- Agricultural Monitoring: Tracking crop health and optimizing farming processes.
- Inspection & Maintenance: Inspecting infrastructure like power lines, pipelines, and bridges.
- Emergency Response & Security: Assisting in search and rescue operations or disaster management.

Delivery Services & Logistics: Innovating how goods are transported quickly and safely.

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