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WOMEN IN STEM: THE ROLE OF MENTORING IN BRIDGING THE GAP

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Biography

Elaine Nkwocha is a Doctoral student and Teaching Assistant in the Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University, United States of America. The focus of her research is to characterize and understand the regulatory effects of a biofilm regulator protein. This protein is a member of the Multiple Antibiotic Resistance Regulatory (MARR) protein family in a bacterium called *Burkholderia thailandensis*. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree with first-class honors in Microbiology from Madonna University, a Master of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and a Master of Science degree with distinction in Molecular Biology and Pathology of Viruses from Imperial College London. Elaine taught as a Lecturer in the Department of Biology/Microbiology/Biotechnology Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Mathematics/Basic Science and Biology Teacher in different colleges/secondary schools and as a volunteer in her community in Nigeria and abroad. She is passionate about helping young people tap into their passion and potential through mentorship, coaching, and teaching. She has mentored and supported several teenagers and youths to achieve academic success and gain admission to the university. Elaine volunteers to different non-governmental organizations/groups where she plays roles like being a mentor, a trustee, zonal president, planning and organizing programs, writing articles, facilitating health education classes, self-development seminars, skill acquisition sessions, and coordinating the communications and editorial team. She recently launched the brave space with Elaine online platform: where she supports individuals to set and achieve their academic goals (course choice, school choice, the application process, funding opportunities, writing personal statements, CV review, writing emails, etc.). She is service-oriented.