



The Department Congratulates
2021 Jindia Scholarship Award Winner
Ms. Gift Onaopemipo Olatunji



Gift's family of five moved to California in 2018 from Nigeria. Her educational experiences up till then had always been in line with the Nigerian system. This encompassed demands to succeed in school through rote learning and memorization, under harsh environmental conditions; mosquito infestations, long drives to school, underpaid and unmotivated teachers and little or no electricity supply. However, she writes, "I was amazed and elated when we arrived in California, that education is not taught in a fear-fueled environment. In SJSU, the teachers ensure a good learning condition, minimize threats and distractions, foster collaboration, optimize relevance, values and authenticity in the student."

Gift wants to build innovations that can help immigrants such as herself, integrate better into the society. She strongly believes that this will be one solution to the sociological problem of acculturation. She looks forward to using her education in Industrial and Systems Engineering to efficiently and effectively use the latest technologies and methodologies that would benefit society.

As a Systems Engineer, Gift's goal is to help bridge the global socio-economic gap in technology, while improving the lives of people all around the world. Further, she plans to use her engineering expertise to improve the systems and designs that developing countries could use to grow as well as create technology that would be accessible to everyone globally, irrespective of status. "

Gift has been very academically successful at SJSU, and has become involved in two campus organizations that will further her achievements: The Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers (Programs and Academic Excellence Chair), and M.E.S.A.



Gift Olatunji continued:

Why SJSU?

I accepted the admission to SJSU amongst other Universities because I loved the feeling of community it promoted. I was not only interested in the educational advancement that SJSU would provide, but also the diverse community I would be a part of. SJSU has encouraged me to be inclusive, while embracing change in positive ways.

How did you decide, and how did you find the ISE program?

I was always interested in working with people to advise them on engineering systems, processes and techniques. However, there were little to no ISE programs present until I moved to California. In California, I was finally able to understand and nurture my interest in ISE.

Hobbies? What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading books, and traveling. Most importantly I love spending time with my family.

Internship?

I have had internship opportunities and programs with organizations like Hack The Hood, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club, and Testlio (a software testing company). All these opportunities have helped to increase my knowledge and experience, especially in the field of software engineering.

Little known fact(s) about you – Three things people don't know about you?

I started watching Korean Dramas while I was in High school. I have advanced to watching movies of any language that peaks my interest. I find it interesting that with time, I was able to pick up languages from these movies.

I love spending time in church. It is very therapeutic to my mental health.

I enjoy sleeping a lot, sometimes a little too much.