

**THE  
WOMEN'S TECHNOLOGY  
EMPOWERMENT CENTRE (W.TEC)**



**W.TEC**  
Women's Technology Empowerment Centre

**PROFILE**

**JANUARY 2019**

## **ABOUT W.TEC**

The **Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (W.TEC)** is a Nigerian nonprofit organisation committed to building a more inclusive technology ecosystem, with the next generation of women technology creators, entrepreneurs and leaders. Over the last year, our work has expanded to explore how technology can improve learning outcomes and better integrate students with developmental disabilities and special needs, such as Autism and Down's syndrome.

Our programmes encourage more girls to pursue technology careers and support women (entrepreneurs and in civil society) to use technology confidently to increase their economic power and ability to speak about issues affecting their lives.

Our programmes include:

- Early Innovators Camp (5 – 9 years)
- She Creates Technology Camp (13 – 17 years)
- W.TEC Academy Afterschool Technology Clubs (10 – 17 years)
- SHE CAN WITH ICT (Technology for Entrepreneurship)
- Staying Safe Online
- MentorHER (Mentorship & Leadership for Female STEM Undergraduates)

This is done through technology trainings, mentoring, work placement and research. W.TEC works in partnership with local and international NGOs, educational and research organizations.

W.TEC was set-up in January 2008 and conceived in response to research that showed that although ICTs significantly contribute to a nation's development and growth, women – who make-up approximately half of Nigeria's population – are severely lagging behind in their knowledge and use of technology.

### **MISSION:**

To educate, connect and empower Nigerian women through active engagement with information and communication technology via training, mentoring and research.

### **VISION:**

A society where Nigerian women and girls are able to create and use information and communication technology for learning, activism, entrepreneurship, and professional activities effectively.

### **GOALS:**

- To equip girls with the skills to create technology and digital content
- To educate girls about and inspire them to pursue science and technology-related career opportunities

- To support girls as they embark on a science and technology-related career path
- To produce innovative and ground-breaking research that supports the development and implementation of technology programmes for women and girls
- To promote and support the use of ICT in uplifting women's rights
- To establish a network of technology-fluent alumni and mentors

### **STRATEGY:**

Our programmes are a combination of the following activities:

- **Technology Classes:** Aimed at developing a high degree of proficiency using and creating technology.
- **Mentoring Opportunities:** With experienced technology professionals and with women using ICTs in creative ways
- **Research:** W.TEC conducts research into the diverse ways women are using technology with a specific focus on how they could better utilise technology for social and economic empowerment

## **PROGRAMMES:**

### **A) FOR GIRLS (11 – 17 YEARS)**

#### **1) SHE CREATES CAMP**

The **SHE CREATES CAMP** is a residential programme for girls aged 13 to 17 years and helps to intervene early, combat stereotypes and tackle the technology gender divide. The camps take place in Lagos, Ibadan (Oyo State) and Awka (Anambra State). It provides a high quality and exciting environment where the girls learn to create useful technologies for everyday living through programming, mobile application development, graphics designing, film-making and digital animation programming. This helps schoolgirls develop an early interest in computer science, information technology and related careers.

Through a mix of classes, workshops, presentations, excursions and leadership exercises, we endeavour to build strong, intelligent and focused young women, well-prepared for living and working in an increasingly technology-driven world.

Partners and supporters have included Union Bank, MainOne, General Electric, Internet Society (ISOC), Intel, Amadeus, Google, Microsoft, World Bank, Swift Networks, Omatek Computers, Rutgers University Women in Computer Science Department, Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology, Lagos State Ministry of Education and Laureates College – Lagos.

#### **2) W.TEC ACADEMY**

The **W.TEC GIRLS ACADEMY** is an after-school technology programme for girls in public secondary schools, designed to inspire girls to pursue computer science careers. With clubs in Lagos and Kwara states, the girls through go through a year-long computing curriculum, which includes modules such as Computer Architecture, Scratch Programming and Alice Programming. Through their participation in the technology clubs, the girls become more confident in writing programmes, developing applications and creating digital content. This programme was designed to complement the existing computer science curriculum in the schools, which tends to focus more on theoretical knowledge than practical experience.

Partners and supporters have included Oracle, Intel, WeTech, Google, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Kwara State Ministry of Education, the National Library Yaba, FEMTECH and SoftTrade.

### **3) STAYING SAFE ONLINE**

The **STAYING SAFE ONLINE** programme introduces and covers the foundation of digital security, where girls and young women learn strategies to stay safe online. This programme runs throughout the year, particularly during the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence (November to December) and Safer Internet Day (February) each year

## **B) FOR WOMEN (18+ YEARS)**

### **SHE CAN with ICT - Sustaining Her Enterprise, Career, and Network with ICT**

**SHE CAN WITH ICT** focuses on increasing the number and viability of female-owned technology businesses by equipping more women entrepreneurs to use technology strategically to leverage economic opportunities for their businesses.

The initiative started in 2015 in collaboration with Diamond Bank and saw 100 young women with small businesses in the city of Ibadan, Oyo state, gaining ICT skills to grow their businesses. The 2017 edition, in partnership with Intel and MainOne Cable, provided 250 female undergraduates from the University of Lagos with entrepreneurial and technology training and mentoring to develop their 'side hustles' into structured businesses that would provide employment after graduation. Workshops included Business Plan Development, Accounting, Social Media and Productivity Tools. Six participants benefited from seed capital and three from travel exchange opportunities to South Africa.

Partners and supporters have included the United States Consulate Public Affairs Section, Union Bank, Leadway Assurance, Global Shapers – Lagos Hub, FEEEDS Advocacy Initiative (founded by former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Robin Sanders), Western Union Foundation, Diamond Bank and Intel.

## **C) ALUMNA NETWORK**

Past trainees and participants of W.TEC training programmes will graduate into the W.TEC Alumna Programme. Alumna activities include annual gatherings and membership to the alumni network and mailing lists, where career and other development information will be disseminated.

## **D) RESEARCH & DISCOURSE**

W.TEC organises public discussions and research to explore technology's potential for women's social and economic empowerment.

### **RESEARCH:**

Past research projects include *'Radio for Women's Development: Examining the Relationship between Access and Impact'* (Case Study). This project was funded by the [International Development Research Center \(IDRC\)](#) and administered by Carleton University, Canada. The findings of this research project were a [key resource in setting-up Nigeria's first women-focused radio station – W FM 91.7](#).

### **DISCOURSE:**

Discussion fora include 6 successful events at Social Media Week Lagos over the last 4 years:

- A panel discussion at Social Media Week Lagos 2017 on [Parenting in an Era of Technology](#)
- One panel discussion and one debate at Social Media Week Lagos 2016 on [The Connected Business Woman](#) and [Social Media in Schools](#)
- Two discussion events at Social Media Week Lagos 2015 on [Smart Mobile Divas](#) and [Where Are the Women?](#)
- One panel discussion at Social Media Week Lagos 2014 on [Doing Business the Social Way](#).

All events had the venues filled to capacity with very energised and excited audiences; and we all enjoyed the interesting and enlightening discussions among the speakers.

### **IMPACT:**

#### **NUMBERS:**

- In 2018, W.TEC reached **4,008** girls, teachers, officials and other stakeholders
- In 2017, W.TEC reached **4,176** girls, teachers, officials and other stakeholders
- In 2016, W.TEC reached **4,261** girls, teachers, officials and other stakeholders
- In 2015, W.TEC reached **5,016** women and girls through our programmes
- In 2014, W.TEC reached **1,632** women and girls through our programmes; and **2,679** people through its speaking engagements

- In 2013, W.TEC reached **2,207** women and girls; **21** teachers through its programmes; and no less than **612** people through its speaking engagements
- In 2012, W.TEC reached **2,397** women and girls
- In 2011, W.TEC reached **1,713** women and girls
- In 2010, W.TEC reached **1,500** women and girls
- In 2008 and 2009, W.TEC impacted **230** women and girls through programmes and **417** people via our online engagement
- **TOTAL (2008 – 2018): 27,161 women and girls [Did not count the speaking engagement numbers]**

#### **PROGRAMME STATS & MILESTONES:**

- **86.21%** of alumnae surveyed stated that participating in the W.TEC programme **inspired them to pursue a STEM-related career path** (However 35.63% were unable to start a STEM-related degree due to variety of reasons such as inability to get admission for the course they applied for.)
- **24.14%** of our alumnae surveyed **are either studying or have completed a STEM degree** in a tertiary institution
- **26.44%** of our alumnae surveyed **made a decision to study a STEM degree** after participating in a W.TEC programme
- **57.47%** of our alumnae surveyed are using the technology skills and knowledge from the W.TEC programme **to generate income** for themselves
- In 2014, the Federal Ministry of Communication Tech with W.TEC implemented the **first nation-wide girls' technology club**
- **Contributions to Public Policy:** In 2011, W.TEC, as part of a sub-committee of experts, reviewed the gender section of the draft science and technology policy. In 2010, W.TEC worked with a team to draft a policy document for broadband deployment in Nigeria.
- In August 2010, W.TEC opened the HUB – an Internet café and training centre – which has so far served 1,200 clients.

#### **PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:**

- The following organisations have supported W.TEC's programmes in cash and in-kind:
  - Adobe Youth Foundation
  - Amadeus
  - Anita Borg Institute for Women in Technology – U.S.A
  - Fahamu - Kenya
  - Flour Mills of Nigeria plc
  - General Electric
  - Google Inc.
  - Intel
  - International Development Research Centre – Canada
  - Internet Society (ISOC)

- Kwara State Ministry of Education
- Lagos State Ministry of Education
- Laureates College – Lagos, Nigeria
- Leadway
- Main One
- Microsoft
- Nokia
- Omatek Computers
- Oracle
- Rutgers University’s Women in Computer Science – U.S.A
- Swift Networks
- Union Bank Nigeria
- WeTech (Women Enhancing Technology)
- World Bank
- Media: Silverbird, AIT, Bella Naija, Africa Magic, DBN, Punch, Guardian, Business Day, The Nation, Champion, Classic 97.3 FM, NEXT 234, Nigeria Info 99.3 FM, Vanguard, News Agency of Nigeria, NTA 2 Channel 5, NTA Lagos Channel 10, Daily Independent, TW Magazine, Momentum Magazine, Tech Loy, Technology Times, BellaNaija, Tech Trends, DO IT! Magazine, Inspire Africa (‘Moments with Mo’ and ‘Naija Diamonds’), New African Woman magazine, Technology Times, Tech 360, Tech Cabal

**CLIENTS:**

- W.TEC has provided consultancy, research, website design or training services to the following clients:
  - Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
  - Bank of Industry
  - BAOBAB For Women’s Human Rights
  - Broadband For Nigeria Project
  - Casa dei Bambini / Lagos Montessori School
  - Children’s Development Centre (CDC)
  - Diamond Bank
  - Ergo Advisors
  - Fahamu – Kenya
  - Federal Ministry of Communication Technology
  - Federal Ministry of Science & Technology
  - FEEEDS Advocacy Initiative (Founded by former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Robin Sanders)
  - Lagos State Ministry of Education
  - Laureates College – Lagos, Nigeria
  - Priory Prep School
  - Talent Plus Resource International
  - Western Union Foundation

## **AWARDS & HONOURS:**

- 2018 & 2017 WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) Prizes Nominee – Category 4 (Capacity Building)
- 2016 YNaija!'s *Top 100 Young People in Technology* Award for W.TEC Executive Director, Oreoluwa Lesi
- 2015 Award Winner from Lagos State Government – “Support Our Schools” Initiative Corporate Social Responsibility Awards
- 2014 *Finalist - Gender Equality Mainstreaming - Technology (GEM-TECH) Award* (Category 5: Closing the ICT Gender Gap) - <http://bit.ly/13LoUsW>
- 2014 *Vital Voices Fellowship* for W.TEC Executive Director, Oreoluwa Somolu - <http://bit.ly/1rYxl93>
- 2014 ‘Chosen Youth’ *Leadership Award* for W.TEC Executive Director, Oreoluwa Somolu – From LaRoche Foundation
- 2014 *Outstanding Role Model* for W.TEC – From Africa Mouthpiece International Magazine
- 2014 YNaija!'s *Top 100 Young People in Technology* Award for W.TEC Executive Director, Oreoluwa Lesi
- 2013 *Ashoka Fellowship* for W.TEC Executive Director, Oreoluwa Somolu, awarded to leading global social entrepreneurs - <http://bit.ly/14ssEA8>
- 2012 *Naija Diamond Recognition* by Diamond Bank & Inspire Africa – Recognition as a Nigerian change maker - <http://bit.ly/1HRS20J>
- 2010 *Vision 2020: Youth Empowerment & Restoration Initiative* Award – For contributions to youth development
- 2010 W.TEC used as *Case Study of Use of Social Media for Advocacy* by Tactical Technology Collective
- 2009 *Anita Borg Change Agent* – For contributions to women in computing - <http://bit.ly/1BCjlue>
- 2009 Highlighted as *Best Practice for use of ICT for Community Transformation* by UN-GAID - <http://bit.ly/3Qxx4k>
- 2009 *Recognition for Supporting Girls in ICT* by Plan International - <http://bit.ly/5RowZ>
- 2008 *African ICT Achievers Award* (Nominee) – Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008 *Anita Borg Systems Pass It On Award* Winner

## **LINKS TO W.TEC PROGRAMMES**

1) News Story about the Camp “The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the W.TEC Girls Technology Camp Ended in Grand Style”: <http://www.tech360ng.com/7th-w-tec-girls-technology-camp-ended-grand-style/>

2) News Article about the W.TEC Girls Technology Camp “Closing the Gender Gap”



<http://www.gereportsafrica.com/post/96516957408/closing-the-gender-tech-gap>

3) Article about Camp on Woodrow Wilson Center blog: <http://africaup-close.wilsoncenter.org/starting-young-the-w-tec-girls-technology-camp/>

4) Photo Album on 2014 Girls Technology Camp: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wtec/sets/72157645975610048/>

6) “The Power Inside”, short film produced by Intel about the 2013 camp: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6LcpmsHzBM>

7) Feedback from 2016 W.TEC alumnae: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR04Mo2mhoI&t=329s>

8) Wikipedia page on W.TEC: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s\\_Technology\\_Empowerment\\_Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Technology_Empowerment_Centre)

9) Wikipedia page on Oreoluwa Lesi: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oreoluwa\\_Lesi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oreoluwa_Lesi)

## **W.TEC BOARD:**

### **TRUSTEES:**

- **Engr. Christiana Adelowo** (Chair) – Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Fechrad Nigeria Limited
- **Dr. Olatokunbo Somolu** (Secretary) – Retired Group General Manager, Engineering & Technology, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
- **Mr. Ibikunle Williams** – Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Pace Technologies
- **Mrs. Oreoluwa Lesi** – Executive Director, Women’s Technology Empowerment Centre

### **ADVISORY BOARD:**

- **Dr. Abi Jagun** – Program Officer (Nigeria), Financial Services for the Poor, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Dr. Shirin Madon** – Senior Lecturer in Information Systems, London School of Economics & Political Science
- **Mrs. Adesuwa Onyenokwe** – Broadcast Journalist, Publisher of “TW” magazine
- **Engr. Florence Seriki** – Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Omatek Computers Limited
- **Mr. Gbenga Sesan** – Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria

## **KEY W.TEC PERSONNEL**

**FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Oreoluwa Somolu Lesi** is Executive Director of the Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (W.TEC).

Oreoluwa worked for several years in the United States researching gender and technology issues and helping to develop and implement programmes aimed at attracting more girls and women to study and work in science and technology-related fields.

She has a Bachelors degree in Economics from Essex University, U.K. a Masters degree in Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems from the London School of Economics & Political Science and a Certificate in Applied Sciences from Harvard University's Extension School. Her interests are the applications of technology in improving lifelong learning and also to raise the economic and social conditions of people (especially women and children) in the developing world.

Her publications include '*Radio for Women's Development: Examining the Relationship Between Access and Impact*' (Nokoko: Journal of the Institute of African Studies, Carleton University – Canada, 2013), '*Networking for Success*' (i4d: Information for Development Online Journal, 2009), '*Telling Our Own Stories: African Women Blogging for Social Change*' (Gender & Development Journal, 2006) and '*Making the Most of On-line Learning: An Introduction to Learning on the Internet*' (Education Development Center, 2004).

She is a 2014 [Vital Voices Lead fellow](#) and a 2013 [Ashoka fellow](#) and a recipient of the [Anita Borg Change Agent Award](#) for her commitment to issues of women in computing in Nigeria.

**PROGRAMME MANAGER: Mrs. Folashade Braimoh** is a Programme Manager of W.TEC. She is mainly responsible for providing support for the smooth and effective implementation of W.TEC's programmes and activities.

Among her responsibilities, she supervises the W.TEC Academy and coordinates the research and documentation activities of the organisation.

Folashade has a Bachelors degree in Information Resources Management from Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.

**PROGRAMME MANAGER: Mrs. Maryam Ibraheem** is a Programme Manager of W.TEC. Maryam oversees the W.TEC Alumnae Followup programme and tracks the progress of our alumnae. She is also responsible for coordinating the monitoring and evaluation of W.TEC's programmes.

Maryam has a Bachelor's Degree (B.Sc) in Sociology from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State. She also has a Master's degree in Sociology (M.Sc) from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Kaduna State.

Before joining W-TEC, Maryam worked as a program officer at the Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and Society for Family Health (SFH). Maryam brings to the organisation her years of experience in programme implementation with NGOs.

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Mr. Adeyemi Odutola** is the Communications Officer of W.TEC, where he is responsible for coordinating and implementing W.TEC's media strategy. He also assists with training, developing curricula and sustainability planning.

Adeyemi has a Post-graduate Diploma in Marketing from the National Institutes of Marketing, a Higher National Diploma in Marketing and an Ordinary National Diploma in Business Administration from the Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

2, Babalola Gardens  
Off Freedom Way  
Ikate, Lekki  
Lagos, Nigeria

**E-mail:** [info@wtec.org.ng](mailto:info@wtec.org.ng)

**Phone:** +234.818.870.9251, +234.809.781.4542

**Website:** [www.wtec.org.ng](http://www.wtec.org.ng)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wteconlinepage](http://www.facebook.com/wteconlinepage)

**Blog:** [www.wtec.org.ng/blog](http://www.wtec.org.ng/blog)

**Pictures:** [www.flickr.com/photos/wtec](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wtec)

**Twitter:** @wteconline

**Instagram:** @wteconline

**Videos:** [www.youtube.com/user/watchwtec/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/watchwtec/videos)