



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



RUFUS IDRIS '11

***Advisor to the Governor on MSME
Development and Wealth Creation
Government of the State of Osun, Nigeria***

Rufus Idris '11 is the advisor to the governor on MSME development and wealth creation for the government of the State of Osun, Nigeria.

Mr. Idris heads the Osun MSME Value Chain Development and Wealth Creation Program, which aims at developing a minimum of 10 market-driven value chains that will

empower 50,000 sustainable MSME entrepreneurs, create jobs and increase incomes for 300,000 people.

“My biggest dream is to be the president of Nigeria, and I am on a pathway to achieving it,” Mr. Idris said. “I am currently running for election to be the Mayor of Badagry, an ancient and coastal city in Nigeria.”

Mr. Idris' past experience includes working as executive director for the CCTL Youth Empowerment Initiative in Lagos State, Nigeria, executive director for CEED in Pittsburgh, Pa. and founder/secretary general for the Union of African Communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Within his first four months at CEED, Mr. Idris pioneered the Skills to Wealth Program and secured its first grant of \$100,000. As a result the organization increased its funding and assets to \$1.5 million, and diversified its funding sources to include private foundations, government agencies, and corporate and individual donors. Mr. Idris grew CEED from zero employees to a winning team of eight employees, 15 volunteers and 23 program consultants servicing hundreds of entrepreneurs.

Mr. Idris has volunteered for the following organizations: All Progressives Congress, the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County DHS Advisory Council on Immigrants and Internationals, the Vibrant Pittsburgh Affinity Group Steering Committee, and the Global Pittsburgh Advisory Council. In 2008 he cofounded the Union of African Communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

“I never really thought of myself as a leader before La Roche College. Although I studied biology, my interactions with the diverse population at La Roche enabled me to lead people from diverse cultures,” he said.

