

BELONGING IN *ceat*

with Kemi Rufai



Diversity and Inclusion Programs

Kemi Rufai is a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

In middle school, Kemi took a pre-engineering class with a female engineering professor who inspired her to study engineering. She had a love for math and science and decided to major in mechanical engineering. She chose to attend at Oklahoma State University after attending a high school summer camp. The summer camp experience and the atmosphere of the campus made her feel right at home.



Both of Kemi's parents are from Nigeria, they both came to the United States in their early twenties and had to completely start over to establish themselves. Neither of her parents attended a four-year institution, but have encouraged and supported her educational aspirations.

Kemi expressed that her overall academic experience in CEAT has been good. She said, she has faced academic challenges and had her share of ups and downs but that is a part of college life. To overcome those challenges she developed better study habits, and utilized tutoring resources.

Besides her parents, Kemi shared that her peers, faculty, and staff at Oklahoma State have helped her stay the course of her academic career. She shared that the biggest impact has been CEAT's Returning Student Scholarships and the research opportunities through The Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (OK-LSAMP).

Kemi quickly became involved in the OSU CEAT community joining the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and served in various leadership roles. She was recently elected NSBE president for the 2020-2021 academic year. Kemi wanted to give back in supporting her peers and joined the Dean's Student Advisory Board where she has served for nearly two years.

Kemi's advice to anyone pursuing a degree in engineering, architecture or engineering technology is to not give up and to work hard from the beginning.

To Kemi, inclusion is making sure everyone has a seat at the table because its important to welcome everyone in a way that is inviting.

Kemi Rufai belongs in CEAT because if not her, who else?

Belonging In CEAT is a Diversity and Inclusion publication that highlights academic experiences of students in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology at Oklahoma State University.
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