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**Introduction to the issue – Dr. David Adewuyi, Managing Editor**

The African Educational Research Network (AERN) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC on May 18 & 19, 2012. There was an evening banquet on May 18 at which Ambassadors from African countries and Presidents from surrounding universities were represented. Eight papers were presented by invited scholars from Africa and the United States on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Four of the presented papers appear in this issue as “**Proceedings from the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AERN.**”

There are twelve other articles in this issue contributed by authors from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Tanzania, Botswana, and the United States. **Oyaziwo Aluede**, **Philipa Idogbo**, and **Justina Imonikhe** discussed the problems associated with low access to tertiary education in Nigeria with its attendant economic and social implications. The authors suggest what the Nigerian government could do to improve the situation. **Adeyemi Adegoju** employed psychoanalytic literary criticism of Hamed Yerima’s *Hard ground* to examine the representations of the social tensions and disruptions of Nigeria’s Niger Delta conflict. The author contended in his analysis that reconstruction bid in conflict and post-conflict situations should not just begin and end with policies and structures, but should equally attempt to restore human minds and values that have been perverted in the course of violent conflicts.

**Eyitayo Ijssakin** evaluated Jimoh Buraimoh’s bead paintings as a medium of artistic expression and found that artist’s works reflect cubistic organization of forms, were abstract in style, and drew much inspiration from the Yoruba tradition. The study concluded that beads which had been a universal form of personal adornment were explored by Buraimoh, to produce visual records of extraordinary creative force with afro-cultural imperatives. **Kolawole Ayodele** and **Temidayo Akinlana** investigated the relationship between writing apprehension and undergraduates’ interest in dissertation writing and the moderator effects of self-efficacy, emotional intelligence, and academic optimism. The results of their study suggested the need for enhanced academic environment that will foster students’ self-efficacy level, emotional intelligence and improved service quality.

**Richard Bukaliya** and **Hama Aleck** discussed the problems affecting the funding of informal business operations in Zimbabwe and what role the Zimbabwe Open University could play to solve these challenges. The authors recommended that Zimbabwe Open University should organize workshops to improve the business administration skills of operators, as part of its community service programs. **Uzoechi Nwagbara** used “value co-creation” as an umbrella term to solicit continental competitive edge in global marketplace of political leadership and value creation in Africa. The main argument of the study is that in order to achieve value co-creation and good political leadership in Africa, shared model of leadership is a precondition; therefore, he proposed the model for good leadership and governance on the African continent.

**Laura Quaynor** discussed current and historical education for citizenship in the Akuapem region of Ghana, and examined the ways schools have served to both alienate youths from their communities and redefine those communities. Using the framework of post-colonial theory, the author argued that literature on education for citizenship in Ghana does not engage the uneven power dynamic between the ideas of local, national, and global

citizenship. She concluded with a brief discussion of the ways in which post-colonial theory can help explain the different ways students engage in ideas of global citizenship that coincide with Nyerere's vision of education for liberation. **Ayoub Kafyulilo's** study explored the ways pre-service teachers from Dar es salaam University College of Education in Tanzania, could develop Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge in order to achieve knowledge, skills, competencies and confidence of integrating technology in teaching.

**Folasade Olaniyi and Adedoyin Ajibade** identified the types of communication activities presented in three recommended French Language textbooks used in Nigerian junior secondary schools. The study examined the quality and the quantity of communication activities and exercises in the selected textbooks and their relevance in achieving communicative proficiency in students. The study concluded that recommended French textbooks could be used to achieve communicative proficiency in Junior Secondary School students only if more qualitative communication activities and exercises were incorporated. **Mary Omoniyi and Joyce Ogunsanmi** investigated the level of perceived stress among Nigeria University Academic Staff in the South West based on the variables of gender, marital status, and years of experience as lecturers. The result indicated that there is no significant difference in the level of stress perceived by male and female lecturers irrespective of their years of experience as lecturers. The findings also revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of perceived stress by married and divorced lecturers. However there is a significant difference between the level of stress perceived by married and unmarried lecturers. The findings were discussed and counseling implications were made for possible options to reduce stress among academics in the south west region of Nigeria.

**Michael Olalekan Olatunji** argued that greater progress can be made and a lasting solution recorded if the relevant bodies will make use of John Dewey's Pragmatic Problem Solving Method in combating HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Nigeria. The author gave a general overview of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria and concluded by giving specific suggestions derived from John Dewey's Pragmatic Problem Solving Method as it applies to Nigeria's HIV/AIDS situation. **Emmanuel Majekodunmi Ajala** analyzed the influence of workplace environment on workers welfare and productivity in government parastatals of Ondo State, Nigeria. Two research questions were raised using descriptive survey research design of the ex post facto type. 350 randomly selected respondents were given structured questionnaires with three sub-sections. The results showed that workplace features and good communication network at workplace have effect on worker's welfare, health, morale, efficiency, and productivity. It was recommended that industrial social workers should work with management to create conducive workplace environment and good communication network that will attract, keep, and motivate its workforce for healthy living and improved productivity.