

# US Consulate Seeks to Strengthen Partnership with Covenant

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*The United States Consulate Public Affairs Officer in Nigeria, Mr. Russell Brooks, has stressed the importance of crafting positive social and political narratives about events in Nigeria, for the nation to enjoy favourable disposition in the international community.*

Mr. Brooks made the call recently during a courtesy visit to the Management of Covenant University.

Mr. Brooks, who was accompanied on the visit by the Fulbright and Humphrey Programs Coordinator in the United States Consulate Lagos, Nigeria, Mr. Clemson Ayegbusi, said that no one could tell the story of Nigeria better than Nigerians. According to him, "Gradually, the negative narratives will change."



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, welcoming the United States Consulate Public Affairs Officer in Nigeria, Mr. Russell Brooks, to Covenant

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He noted that there were over 16,000 Nigerians studying in universities in the United States, adding that the Nigerians were among the best in these American institutions.

Mr. Brooks posited that his visit to Covenant, which was on behalf of the US Embassy in Nigeria, was to further the embassy's partnership with the University and bond with its United States' State Department Alumni on-campus and online.

He stated that faculty and staff of Covenant had consistently enjoyed good relationship with the United States embassy in Nigeria. He expressed hope that such relationship would be sustained through improved academic exchange programmes and opportunities from time to time.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero, commended the US Embassy for its partnership with the University. While noting that the American embassy was one of those diplomatic missions in Nigeria that had been very supportive of the international exchange programme of Covenant, Professor Atayero urged the US Consular in Nigeria to help show the world the good things happening in Nigeria.

"We have been hosting international visiting scholars in our University recently, and some of them are so adventurous that they desire to see other parts of Nigeria that the world is not showcasing to them. This has resulted in us hosting many other visiting scholars from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, China, South Africa, Canada, and India among others," the Vice-Chancellor enthused.

He assured the visiting team of the University's readiness to subscribe to additional partnerships with the United States' State Department and other academic bodies in the US towards firming up and facilitating increased United States scholars and researcher's partnership drive with Covenant.

Professor Atayero had on the occasion decorated Mr. Brooks as an Ambassador of Covenant, in recognition of the latter's services to the University.

The Director, International Office and Linkages, Covenant, Dr Ada Sonia Peters, had after the meeting facilitated a meet-and-greet session with the US State Department Alumni on campus and online. The US Embassy team also paid a visit to

the Department of Political Science and International Relations, where a stimulating session on diplomatic practice and engagement with the graduate students of the Department took place.

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