

CHANGEMAKER **BOILER CHANGEMAKER**

The Boiler Changemaker Award recognizes:

MARY KAKA

Their nominator wrote:

Mary wears many impressive hats. Transitioning from a medical microbiology background into human genetics, she is determined to identify the genetic basis of mental disorders in individuals of underrepresented ancestries in genomics. She does a good job of balancing her groundbreaking research with exceptional leadership.

Her research addresses a critical gap in genomics by exploring the unique genetic factors contributing to mental disorders in individuals from diverse backgrounds. Her work has the potential to unlock crucial insights into the complex interplay between genetics and mental health, leading to more personalized and effective treatments.

Beyond her research, Mary's role as Treasurer of the Nigerian Student Association at Purdue showcased her exceptional organizational skills and leadership qualities. Under her guidance, the organization achieved impressive results during the Purdue Day of Giving, becoming the third-highest donor in an hourly challenge.

Looking ahead, Mary's upcoming roles as a Purdue SAO Ambassador and Professional Development Chair for the Purdue Biological Sciences Graduate Students Association will allow her to further impact the academic community.



As an SAO Ambassador, she will inspire prospective students with the importance of diversity in research. As the Professional Development Chair, she will support the growth and success of fellow graduate students.

Great Job, Mary!

Do you know a grad student who is making big changes? Nominate them at: bit.ly/BCMAWARD