The following phishing email was received by members of the Northwestern community on or around May 22, 2018, appearing to be from Northwestern University. DO NOT click on any links or open any attachments and DO NOT respond to this email or any email you suspect is a phishing attempt. As a reminder, Northwestern will never ask for personally identifiable information.

Please check out the How to Identify a Fraudulent Email Scam video on the NUIT Communications YouTube Channel for more information on how to spot phishing email scams.

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From: (Name intentionally removed by Northwestern IT)
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Subject: [concerning your late uncle's fund];

Good day, Please view important information.

Hello,

I will like to seek your help in a business proposal, which although is sensitive by nature and not what I should discuss with someone I don’t know and have not met using a medium such as this but I do not have a choice ,

My name is Mr. David Sello: I am a banker in Republic of Benin, Africa. I am contacting you with respect to transfer the sum of ($10,000,000) Ten Million United States Dollar) deposited by a major supplier of Agricultural Equipments in West Africa named Dr. Norman who died few years ago of cardiac arrest in Republic of Benin.

After vivid investigation, I find out that the late depositor left his next of kin column empty when opening the account with my bank because the bank law stimulates that after 5 years where the next of kin did not appear for the claims, the fund will transfer into the government coffers.

to avert this negative development, I will like to seek for your permission as a foreigner to stand as the next of kin to Dr. Norman so that the fruits of this old man's labour will not go into the government purse because they will use the money to sponsor themselves in politics and to enrich themselves.

Upon your interest in this, the money will be paid into your account for us to share in the ratio of 50% for me , 40% for you and 10% will be set aside for any expenses that will be incurred during this process, for you to know the reason why I am contacting you is because I CANNOT HANDLE THIS ALONE so i need someone that will act as the beneficiary and in twelve working days from now, this money will be in your account. Before the arrival of this money into your account whatever the expenses incurred will be deducted before we split the money.

There is no risk involve in this project, with my position in my bank I will make sure they make you the legal beneficiary and the legality of this project will correspond with local and international laws of inheritance.

All legal documents to aid you in claiming this fund and to prove your relationship with the deceased will be provided by me with the help of a local attorney that will represent you here in Benin. Your help will be appreciated with 40% of the total sum. Please accept my apologies and keep my confidence and disregard this letter if you do not appreciate this proposal I have offered you.

I anxiously wait for your urgent reply.

Best Regards

Mr. David Sello