Ghanaian Institute for the Future of Teaching and Education
(GIFTED) Women’s Fellowship Program
Newsletter • Volume 3 • Issue 1 • January 2017

GIFTED is a leadership and professional development program that aims to build capacity in emerging female leaders in education. The GIFTED program is a partnership between New York University (NYU), University of Minnesota (UMN), University of Education, Winneba (UEW), Mujeres por Africa, sponsored by Banco Santander.

In July 2016, the Third Cohort of GIFTED Fellows completed a one-week leadership institute hosted by NYU Accra. Fellows designed their first Leadership Action Projects. Look what the GIFTED Fellows have to say as they begin work on their projects.

“I now have the insight, passion, and the zeal of working with the community and making an impact.”

“I have broadened my scope of thinking and now have the opportunity to develop my dreams and aspirations.”

We are excited to share the following new developments that seek to increase GIFTED’s impact and build a strong partnership with an emphasis on local ownership.

Revised Programming
Moving forward, GIFTED Fellows will implement Leadership Action Projects in their schools. This new design is a shift away from the girls’ club model used by the First and Second Cohorts. The Leadership Action Projects allow GIFTED Fellows to identify the impact that they would like to make in their school community and then build a project to meet this goal. This new project design aims to 1) provide opportunities for the GIFTED Fellows to practice leadership skills; 2) increase the visibility of GIFTED Fellows as leaders, and 3) make an impact in the broader school community.

New Programming
GIFTED is excited to introduce the Fostering Program. Led by Mrs. Sakina Aquah and Ms. Priscilla Yaaba Ackah at UEW, the Fostering Program provides ongoing leadership training, career development, and professional networking to GIFTED alumnae. Sakina and Priscilla hope to “create a platform for Fellows to share experiences and support each other.” The Fostering Program provides a support structure that will contribute to the ongoing sustainability of GIFTED. Fellows from First and Second cohorts have already attended four fostering meetings since September!

A big welcome to the Third Cohort of GIFTED Fellows

GIFTED Fast Facts June ‘13- December ‘16
Location: Winneba & Kasoa, Ghana
Number of GIFTED Fellows: 36
Number of Schools with GIFTED Fellows: 16
Number of Government Offices with GIFTED Fellows: 2
Slimba, Head Teacher  
**Supporting Education for Muslim Girls:** Slimba is engaging the community chief, the Imam, the Parent Teacher Association, parents and several local mosques to increase the enrollment of Muslim girls in her school by sharing the importance of girls’ education.

Faustina, Primary School Teacher  
**Attendance on Market Days:** Faustina is mounting a community campaign to increase school attendance on market days. Using local radio shows, drama presentations, and community gatherings she is sending the message that school attendance is important.

Mercy, Education Officer  
**Improving Sanitation Practices:** To improve student health, Mercy is providing handwashing facilities for two schools in her district. She is engaging municipal health officers and school communities to teach proper sanitization.

Gloria, Junior High School Teacher  
**Improved Literacy Instruction for Teachers:** Gloria is working with the English teachers in her school to develop and prepare lesson plans and relevant learning materials for teachers to use school-wide to enhance literacy instruction.

Pamela, Primary School Teacher  
**Nutrition and Sanitation Campaign:** With the support of the PTA, municipal health officer, and school administration, Pamela is working with the food vendors to ensure proper hygiene and the provision of healthy food options for students.

Ivy, Primary School Teacher  
**Bringing Students to School on Time:** Ivy is working with approximately 35 students and their parents to uncover reasons for student lateness and provide motivation and support to ensure students regularly arrive at school on time and improve academic performance.

Patience, Primary School Teacher  
**Market Day Attendance:** Upper primary school students often skip school on market days to work or attend the market. To improve attendance and spread community awareness of the importance of education, Patience is engaging these students through cultural dance and drama performances.

Serwaa, Primary School Teacher  
**Single Mothers Support Groups:** Serwaa is creating a social support network for single mothers in her school community. By organizing sessions that aim to build a supportive community for single mothers, she hopes to increase the school attendance of their children.

Sylvia, Education Officer  
**Kindergarten Learning Resources:** To ensure an engaging environment that allows children to learn through play, Sylvia is working with 15 kindergarten teachers to develop and effectively use relevant materials on literacy, numeracy, and environmental studies.

Angelina, Head Teacher  
**In Charge of a Brand New School:** As the recently appointed headmistress of a new school not yet commissioned, Angelina is sharing her vision for the school and using her leadership training to obtain furniture, textbooks, and materials for her teachers.

Amma, Primary School Teacher  
**Student Health Campaign:** Amma is working with PTA, staff and parents to ensure the pupils in her school community learn and practice proper hygiene in and out of school. In school, she is working with students to keep the environment clean and teach proper hygiene practices.

Felicia, Primary School Teacher  
**Reducing Absenteeism:** Felicia wants to lower the rate of absenteeism in her school. She is holding community meetings with the PTA and influential community members to share the importance of attending school and will engage students through in-school activities.

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**GIFTED would like to welcome Wasila Yakubu to the team. She will serve as the Program Assistant in Ghana. Akwaaba!**

*A special thank you to Prof. Mawutor Avoke, Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony Aful-Broni, Prof. Akosua Anyidoho and Mrs. Rita Ackon, for their continued support of the GIFTED program.*

For more information about the GIFTED Program, please contact the PIs of the project, Kristie Patten Koenig at kristie.koenig@nyu.edu or Rose Vukovic at rvukovic@umn.edu.