

# Ghanaian Institute for the Future of Teaching and Education (GIFTED) Women's Fellowship Program

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GIFTED, part of the larger Ghana Wins! Project, is a professional development program that aims to build capacity in women leaders in education. GIFTED began in June 2013 and is a partnership between New York University (NYU), University of Minnesota (UMN), the University of Education Winneba (UEW), and Mujeres por Africa, sponsored by Banco Santander.

### GIFTED FACTS: June 2013 – June 2015

Number of GIFTED Fellows: **24**

Number of Change Projects: **12**

Number of Participants Enrolled: **425**

Number of Club Sessions to Date: **543**

The GIFTED Program hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of Fellows in New York City for their final week-long training. The Fellows participated in professional development sessions, data-analysis training, and school site visits. The Fellows also saw the city sites on a double decker bus and a cruise around lower Manhattan. To close out the week, the Fellows presented the preliminary results of their change projects at the 2015 GIFTED Educational Symposium and received a standing ovation from the crowd!



## Check out the highlights from each team's presentation!

### Maggie and Aba

Change Project: **Unique Girls' Club**

Maggie and Aba observed that girls in their school did not participate in school leadership positions. In the Unique Girls' Club, they teach leadership skills through participatory activities. Over the past year, Maggie and Aba have noted an increase in the girls' self-efficacy and self-confidence. The girls in the club now occupy **75%** of the elected leadership positions and **64%** of the non-elected positions in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades!

### Emma and Lily

Change Project: **Pacesetters Girls' Club**

Girls at Emma and Lily's school were missing school or leaving school early. To support girls to stay in school they started the Pacesetters Club. The club teaches the vocational skill of soap making and entrepreneurial skills. Over the past year, the average club attendance was **95%** and **NO** girls in the club left school early! In total, they have produced **435** soap products and have sold **304** products. The profits are used to purchase school supplies for the girls and sustain club activities.

### Joyce and Eunice

Change Project: **GIFTED Science Club**

Joyce and Eunice noticed that girls at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level performed worse than boys in science. Their goal was to increase interest and performance in science among the lowest performing girls. Through their interactive science club, they have seen an increase in the girls' average science exams by **53%** and the average science class rank has improved from **18 to 10!**

### Yacoba and Vivian

Change Project: **Goal Getters Club**

Yacoba and Vivian are challenging the process in the Goal Getters Club by addressing the problem of teenage pregnancy in their school. The club teaches lessons on adolescent health and how to prevent pregnancy. The girls also learn various methods of performing arts to showcase the information they learn and inform the community through performances. Yacoba and Vivian have trained **6** girls in their club to drum- a task traditionally reserved for males. Last year, **11** girls in the school got pregnant and this year the number has reduced to **2!**

**Yvonne and Roberta**

**Change Project: Intellect Girls' Club**

Yvonne and Roberta began the Intellect Girls' Club to increase girls' interest and performance in math among the lowest performing girls. Through math lessons and hands on practical lessons the girls' math scores have increased and now are on par with the non-GIFTED girls. The average class rank has also improved from an average of **28 last year** to an average of **23 this year!**

**Hajira and Georgina**

**Change Project: Innovative Girls' Club**

Georgina and Hajira started the Innovative Girls' Club to increase girls' attendance in school. The club teaches photography to engage the girls and allow them to represent their community through visual arts. Over the year, the average club attendance was **97%** and the girls are coming to school regularly. At the end of last year, the girls in the club attended school the least compared to other students and now they **attend school the most!**

**From the GIFTED 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort, the GIFTED girls, and the GIFTED team, we want to say *MEDASI (thank you)* for your support!**



**GIFTED 1st Cohort Updates**

Emma and Louisa started the Little GIFTED Club last year teaching tie-dye and batik. This year they constructed four looms and the girls have learned how to weave Kente, a traditional Ghanaian cloth.

Martha and Grace are continuing their cultural dance and drumming club by teaching new dances to perform in the community.

Mercy and Rita have added a counseling session to their regular math lessons. They noticed that girls needed support in other areas and have added a professionally trained counselor to their GIFTED team.



*Louisa working with a group of girls on the loom.*

**What's Next for GIFTED**

Grant writing and sustainability workshop for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cohorts.

Data analysis by the GIFTED team to measure the impact of the program on the Fellows and the girls in the clubs.

Selection of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort in February, 2016.

*For more information about the GIFTED Program, please contact the PI of the project, Kristie Patten Koenig, at [kristie.koenig@nyu.edu](mailto:kristie.koenig@nyu.edu)*