Ghanaian Institute for the Future of Teaching and Education (GIFTED)  
Women’s Fellowship Program  
Newsletter • Volume 1 • Issue 3 • October 2014

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 Fellows Travel to New York City**

The first cohort of GIFTED Fellows travelled to New York City for a weeklong Summer Institute at New York University. The 12 Fellows continued their leadership training, visited New York City public schools, attended presentations on gender and education, participated in a data analysis workshop, and presented at an educational symposium at NYU. The Fellows also found time for fun! They toured the city on a double decker bus, enjoyed a sunset boat ride around Manhattan and saw a movie in 3D.

**Highlights from Change Projects**

- In the *Girls of Difference Club*, Martha and Grace used cultural dance and drumming to bring girls to school. In the past year, female enrollment in the school **more than doubled**! Martha and Grace added a reading club now that so many girls are regularly attending school.

- Emma and Louisa’s *Little GIFTED Club* taught tie-dye and batik to disadvantaged girls. The goal of Little GIFTED was to build the girls’ confidence and develop leadership skills. By the end of the year, **84%** of the girls held leadership roles in school government, cultural groups, or sports!

- In Rebecca and Serwaa’s *Creative Minds Club*, which included special education students, English scores improved **11%** from the beginning to the end of the year, and the average class rank position moved up by **3 spots**. Rebecca and Serwaah began holding daily instead of weekly sessions to keep up with their girls asking to learn even more!

- In the *Art for Life Club*, Rebecca and Elizabeth taught bead making to keep girls in school. The girls produced over a **thousand** pieces of jewelry, which they sold at community markets. The profits were used to purchase school supplies, health products, and snacks to support girls’ basic needs **and** the girls gained valuable entrepreneurial skills.

- Mercy and Rita’s *Amazing Girls Club* focused on improving math proficiency. The club was successful at **keeping girls in school** for more days than their peers and math scores improved by **4%**!

- The *GIFTED Winneba Club*, led by Rita and Faustina, built leadership capacity in local teachers. **75%** of their teachers now hold leadership positions in their schools and communities, **50%** are pursuing further leadership training, and **100%** have reported feeling more confident and effective in their current roles.

**GIFTED FACTS June 2013 - September 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of GIFTED Fellows:</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Change Projects:</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Participants Enrolled:</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Registration still happening!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Club Sessions to Date:</td>
<td>253</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The 12 Fellows represent six schools in the Effutu Municipality. The Fellows attended their first leadership training in Accra in June. Since then, the Fellows have been hard at work to ensure their change projects are up and running by the end of September.

We look forward to seeing the second cohort’s projects benefit the girls in their schools.

With the addition of the second cohort’s change projects, GIFTED is now working in a total of 11 schools in the Effutu Municipality!

Sustainability

The Cohort 1 Fellows have written their first grant applications to seek funding for the sustainability of their change projects. They received mentorship from the NYU team on the grant writing process and all the GIFTED teams have submitted their grant applications. The grant writing skills learned will allow the Fellows to seek funding and gain support locally and internationally so they can continue their projects and support the girls in their schools.

To bring local exposure to the work the GIFTED Fellows are doing, Mrs. Hilda Eghan, the Municipal Director of Education, Winneba has committed to having Cohort 1 present their findings to schools within the circuit.

To bring national exposure and secure support for GIFTED in Ghana, Mujeres por Africa, in conjunction with the Ghanaian Minister of Education, is looking into organizing a national conference that features the work of the Fellows.

Five of the Cohort 1 teams have resumed their change project activities for the 2014-2015 school year.

The GIFTED program would like to thank Mrs. Hilda Eghan, Municipal Director of Education, Winneba; staff at UEW; and NYU Accra for their continued support.

A special thank you to Congressman Nadler’s office for helping us bring all the Cohort 1 Fellows to New York!