

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

Newsletter • Volume 1 • Issue 1 • December 2013

The GIFTED program 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), Mujeres por Africa, and the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), sponsored by Banco Santander. Over three years, the program will train 36 GIFTED fellows. The first cohort of 12 women met in Accra, Ghana in June 2013 for a leadership and mentoring training conducted by faculty of NYU and UEW. Each pair of women developed a change project to incorporate in their local school to support girls’ education. All the teams successfully implemented their change projects at the beginning of the school year in September 2013.

GIFTED Facts 2013-2014	
Region:	Winneba, Ghana
Number of GIFTED Fellows:	12
Number of Change Projects:	6
Number of teachers enrolled:	12
Number of girls enrolled:	166



Rebecca & Elizabeth
Primary School
Art for Life Girls’ Club
20 girls ages 10-15

In Art for Life, girls learn how to make and sell bead products to cover school related expenses to keep them in school and reduce dropout.

“The girls have started visualizing how and what they will turn into lucrative ventures. Community members have reported girls putting their leisure time into productive activities.”



Mercy & Rita
Junior High School
Amazing Girls’ Club
20 girls ages 14-17

Mercy and Rita teach math skills to improve girls’ performance on the Senior High School entrance exam. The club organizes field trips and guest speakers to engage girls in real world math topics.

“The girls have been introduced to place value, comparing and ordering of numbers and integers in mathematics. The lessons have been interesting, participatory, successful and effective.”



Martha & Grace
Primary School and Junior High School
Girls of Difference Girls’ Club
75 girls ages 6-18

Martha and Grace’s club focuses on building girls’ confidence and leadership skills through cultural dance, reading, and discussion groups.

“We have been able to achieve successes in improving the confidence level in the girls from the classroom to the playground. Club enrollment is still increasing.”





Emma & Louisa Linda
Primary School
Little GIFTED Girls' Club
25 girls ages 10-14

In Little GIFTED, girls learn the craft of batik, tie-dye, and graphic design. The club incorporates lessons on sexual health and early pregnancy to keep girls in school.

“Interesting sessions were held on tie-dye and the students ask wonderful questions. Even the shy and withdrawn pupils asked questions and it was encouraging.”



Rebecca & Serwaa-Ameniampong
Primary School
Creative Minds Girls' Club
26 girls ages 10-17

Rebecca and Serwaa teach literacy skills and creative writing to improve girls' academic performance and confidence in school. The club includes a learning guide and an interpreter to meet the needs of girls with disabilities.

“There has been an improvement in the girls' word identification skills. The girls are creating stories about themselves, animals and fruits in their localities.”



Rita & Faustina
Government Education Services
GIFTED Winneba
12 teachers

Rita and Faustina run a leadership and mentoring program for 12 female teachers. Through professional development activities, the program aims to build the leadership skills of the teachers so that they can be leaders in their community and schools.

“Our ladies are confident that their participation in GIFTED Winneba will surely change their attitude and skills.”



What's next for the GIFTED Program

Site visits by NYU team in December 2013

- Mid-term progress review of change projects
- Observe implementation of girls' clubs
- Workshop on data collection and change project evaluation
- Work with GIFTED fellows to create leadership development plans

Spring 2014

- Workshop on presentation skills in Winneba, Ghana
- Recruit second cohort of 12 GIFTED fellows for the 2014-2015 academic year

Summer 2014

- First cohort attends educational conference in New York City
 - Presentation of results of change projects
 - Sessions on project sustainability
- Leadership and mentoring training for the second cohort in Accra, Ghana

A special thanks to NYU Accra for their continued support throughout the GIFTED program.

For more information about the GIFTED Program please contact the PI of the project, Kristie Patten Koenig at kristie.koenig@nyu.edu.