

Leadership Africa USA

Ghana Update

Graduation Ceremony for Youth Leadership Training Initiative in Akuapem

179 students recently graduated from Leadership Africa USA’s (LA USA) “*Securing Their Future: Youth Leadership Training Initiative*” in Akuapem North, Ghana.

“We felt this was quite a unique way of approaching teaching and learning.” (Keziah Gyan Baah, Student Participant)

The youth leadership training initiative was integrated as a component of The Tetteh Quarshie Educational Fund’s annual Summer Science Vacation School in the Eastern Region. “The addition of the leadership training made studies more interesting and lively as we were called upon during the teaching of other

subjects to practice what we might have learned during the leadership classes,” said Keziah Gyan Baah, one of the student participants who addressed the graduation ceremony. “We felt this was quite a unique way of approaching teaching and learning.”

The training was designed to create a new generation of change agents by building competence in areas that improve the quality of a youth’s life; connecting youth to positive influences through mentoring/coaching relationships; increasing confidence, self-esteem and self-integrity; and providing opportunities to reinforce learning through the practical application of knowledge about leadership during Leadership Circle Club activities.

“The Youth Leadership Training Initiative is quite unique, and the first of its kind.” (Ben B. Cronze, District Director of Education, Akuapem-North)

The leadership training initiative was part of the Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions (ECHOES) program administered by the World Cocoa Foundation and supported by USAID.

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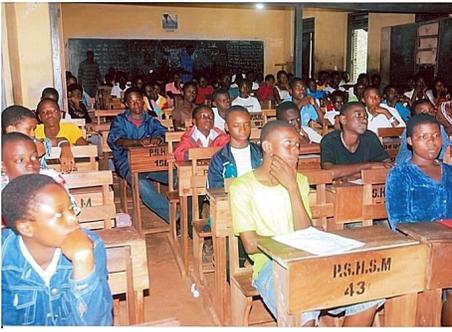
Rev. Dadebo, Coordinator of ICT, Education Section, Ministry of Education, Ghana



Graduation Ceremony, Presbyterian High School, Mampong, Akuapem-North

Leadership Circle Clubs

Putting Theory Into Practice in Ghana



Leadership Circle Clubs consulting on environmental stewardship

120 students from four major communities in Ghana; Akropong, Amanorkrom, Mampong and Tutu participated in Leadership Circle Clubs to showcase participants leadership skills in their community.

Leadership Africa USA formed the Circle Clubs as a way to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the material being taught in the classroom. The program also aims to make students role models within their own communities and to serve as peer educators for the leadership skills training program.



Leadership Circle Club Activities

Leadership activities were organized for participants in their own communities in order to encourage a sense of civic engagement and help make the activities more sustainable.

"Student's involvement was very high and it is expected that the skills and experience acquired in these few weeks of training will be effectively used to enhance their career and learning attitude within their schools and the communities." - Kwaku Amakye Okoi,



Leadership Circle Club Activities

These extracurricular activities challenged students to put into practice their learning on the traits and actions of a leader; public speaking, verbal communication and listening skills; and working with and listening to others to achieve a common goal.

The Leadership Circle Clubs undertook a number of activities, including:

- A one day voluntary clean-up of their own communities in order to remove unsanitary conditions in communities, homes and churches to promote healthy living and good environmental stewardship;
- Combined group clean-up activities at the Presbyterian High School compound and the Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital, both in Mampong, with all four Circle Clubs participating; and
- A presentation on career opportunities in the medical field and the importance of science & math education from the hospital administrator from Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital and the importance of science and math.



Leadership Circle Club at Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital

Success Story

Keziah Gyan Baah

Student, Presbyterian High School, Mampong



At 17 years old, Keziah Gyan Baah had never spoken to an audience before. Living in the small town of Mampong, nestled in the hills of Ghana's cocoa-producing Akuapem-North district, she was unfamiliar with what was needed for public speaking, and she was not equipped with the tools needed to address an audience. But by the time she completed Leadership Africa USA's leadership training initiative at the annual Summer Science School sponsored in Mampong, she was delivering the graduation's commencement address with confidence and eloquence.

"The most surprising things we learned were the various leadership skills and traits, and the skills needed to speak in public," Keziah said in her commencement address. "We wish we had learned this earlier because it has enhanced our capabilities, and we will put it to good use in becoming useful citizens in our society."

Through classes conducted by trained instructors for one hour four times per week and an extracurricular component designed to reinforce theoretical learning with its practical application, Keziah and 178 other students in Akuapem-North identified the roles and characteristics of a good leader; explored their own values and priorities; developed public speaking, verbal communication and listening skills; learned to exchange ideas and share opinions; understood the importance of accepting individual differences and appreciating differing opinions; and developed and utilized skills for service and work on projects to help their schools and communities.

"One of the challenging things that confronted most of us initially was the public speaking session. Most of us learned for the first time the traits of effective public speaking," Keziah said. "Such important things as posture, visual focus, gestures and speaking slowly and distinctly were quite new to us and we struggled with them; however, we were able to overcome the challenges as we practiced."

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