

## Contribution to Peace

Ghana has over a hundred ethnic groups. There's a lot of discrimination and ethnocentrism among some of these ethnic groups. The actions and acts that emanate from ethnocentrism and discrimination in Ghana influences so many decisions in the country and hinders development. As a country working towards improving the economic standards of the average Ghanaian, there's the need to empower young upcoming ones who will serve as change makers within their communities and schools. Since these young ones are the future of the country, their empowerment will enable them to champion innovative programs and projects that will ultimately lead to the development of the country. That is what the springboard scholars program seeks to do; to equip these young ones with the skills and exposure they need to go back to their communities and effect change.

## The Problem

I recall how under-preparation and limited exposure to career and personal development opportunities made my transition to college difficult compared to my peers in other parts of the world. Most Ghanaian public high school students' status quo is to complete their diploma and enroll in university programs based on their WASSCE (regional high school final exams) grades. These students have little thought for meaningful activities like community service, career exploration, entrepreneurship and innovation due to the unavailability and or the inaccessibility of such opportunities. Many students end up never discovering their strengths, talents, and passion. Though these students are often capable of much more, they make a minimal contribution to their society due to unexploited and unnurtured capabilities. Most public high schools in Ghana do not engage in programming that exposes their students to entrepreneurship, different career opportunities, community service, entrepreneurship and many more due to funding constraints and other factors.

## Project Description

The Springboard Scholar's program is an innovative youth empowerment program for disadvantaged Ghanaian high school students who desire to impact their communities. Participants will be taken through a series of carefully designed events and activities that will push them to reach their highest intellectual and personal capabilities while equipping them with real-world opportunities. The springboard scholars program is a part of a national campaign championed by the League for Global Development(LGD) that seeks to empower the youth to be active members of their communities, develop their skills through extracurricular activities and contribute their quota towards sustainable development in Ghana.

The Springboard Scholars program also seeks to gain insight into the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Ghana, what young people think and how they can be part of its implementation in Ghana. The summer program is at the tail end of months of research and physical touchpoints to gather and gain a useful understanding of youths' perspectives on Sustainable Development in Ghana. This campaign is part of LGD's initiative to promote youth awareness and participation in the SDGs. The League for Global Development has collaborated with various organizations to execute this global initiative on a local, regional, and national level.

The one-week summer leadership camp will feature keynote addresses, financial literacy training, workshops, panel discussions, a social innovation competition, and many more. The program aims to bring together underprivileged students, youth leaders, business leaders, civil society experts, and influential personalities to discuss youth leadership and youth contribution towards building a better Ghana and the world. Through a two-stage application process, online application, and finalist interviews, about 30 underprivileged high school students will be selected to participate in the Springboard Scholars Program.

My organization seeks to partner with organizations such as United Nations Information Center Ghana, UNDP Ghana, UNESCO Ghana, EducationUSA and many corporate bodies to host some of the session. These are organizations we have organized youth empowerment programs with before.

## Program Objectives

- Facilitate a knowledge-sharing platform for young people to gain awareness, insight, and detailed education on career exploration, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.
- Encourage youth participation in sustainable development in Ghana.
- Equip participants to real-world opportunities available across sectors that they can tap into for personal and professional development.
- Equip participants with skills they need to act or undertake ventures that drive sustainable development in Ghana.
- Gain insight into the youth perspective on issues that matter to them, especially regarding sustainable and personal development.

### Program Structure

- **Application Process** (Online application & interview)
- **Selected candidate Leadership Summer Bootcamp**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Guest Speaker Series (GSS)</li> <li>➤ Panel Discussions</li> <li>➤ Movie Screenings and Discussions</li> <li>➤ Corporate Visits</li> <li>➤ Community Service Day</li> <li>➤ Action Space/Social Innovation Competition</li> <li>➤ Entrepreneurship &amp; Leadership Training Sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sports Day</li> <li>➤ Introduction to the U.S. college applications</li> <li>➤ Coding Workshop</li> <li>➤ Karaoke nights</li> <li>➤ LinkedIn Profile &amp; Networking 101 Session</li> <li>➤ Financial Literacy Training</li> <li>➤ Dinner Night/ Final Project Presentations</li> </ul>
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### Provisional Project Timeline

#### April 17 – June 11:

- Candidates will apply to the program through the League for Global Development's website ([www.lgdghana.com](http://www.lgdghana.com))

#### June 12 – July 2:

- A 6-member team reviews the applications submitted and selects the final candidates who move on to the interview stage. Details of project planning team below.
  - Gideon Ampofo – Project Lead (Economics and Computer Science Student at Oberlin College, USA & Incoming Global Markets Summer Analyst at Goldman Sachs)
  - Anthony Eduafo (Economics and French Student at Soka University of America, USA & Incoming Investment Banking Summer Analyst at Bank of America)
  - Mr. Richard Ofori (Physics Tutor, Mfantshipim High School, Ghana & Board Chair of the League for Global Development)
  - Hamza Ibrahim (Economics and Spanish Student at Soka University of America, USA)
  - Judah Kofi Eliezer (Officer – Ghana Immigration Service)
  - Thomas Tafafa Anthonio (Engineering Student – University of Mines & Technology, Ghana)

#### July 7 – July 21:

- Final round interviews and decisions notification period.

#### August 14 – August 22, 2021

- Springboard Scholars Program

### Impact

After the springboard scholars' program, we would have impacted all the scholars in a positive way and equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge they need to go back to their various high schools and communities to serve as changemakers. These scholars would then lead change in their respective institutions.

### Corona Virus Disclosure

The springboard scholars' program is going to be organized with all Covid-19 protocols in place in order to ensure the safety of both participants, organizers and invited guests. The covid-19 situation in Ghana allows for an in-person event to be organized with the maximum participation capped at 100. As at December 5, 2020, the number of active covid-19 cases in Ghana was 847 with a total death of 325 since the pandemic started.