

November/December 2023

FULL “STEM” AHEAD

A Publication of Teach STEM Africa



SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

A Message from Dr. Kimberly West, Founder & President

This holiday season I have so much to be thankful for. What started as a dream has come to fruition. My desire and passion for working with African educators to help improve the educational outcomes for students with STEM-based professional development training and instructional resources is unfolding right before my eyes. Through the work of our Board of Directors, we have begun planning our Summer 2024 Professional Development Series in Ghana. We have recruited a dynamic cohort of educators and STEM professionals who bring a wide range of experience and expertise. During this two-week experience, the cohort will be working alongside Ghanaian educators, visiting schools and classrooms, learning about the Ghanaian education system, and seeing the smiling faces of brilliant students.

Much goes into preparing for our summer programming. Not only do we recruit amazing educators and STEM professionals, but we also develop and prepare instructional materials to support educators in the classroom. We collect basic classroom supplies such as paper, pencils, and resources to support STEM education such as lab equipment and math manipulatives. My interview with Ghanaian educator Joseph Amartei highlighted the needs of Ghanaian educators and why the work of Teach STEM Africa is so important. During this season of giving, we ask that you partner with us in providing programming and resources for our summer professional development series. Donating on Giving Tuesday is just one way that you can positively impact Ghanaian students and educators. Visit our Giving Tuesday page at www.gagives.org/organization/teachstemafrica to learn more and donate.

I am looking forward to 2024 and the work that lies ahead of us. Our mission is clear and I am thankful for the lives that will be positively impacted.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season!

Kim



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Teach STEM Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your tax-deductible donation funds our work and provides STEM resources to African schools and educators.

GIVING TUESDAY IS COMING



Join forces with us on Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023, to help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000. Your donation will support our 2024 Summer Professional Development Series in Ghana, empowering Ghanaian educators with the training materials they need to inspire the next generation of science and math innovators. We aim to equip classrooms with basic lab equipment, math manipulatives, and all the supplies necessary to make learning fun, such as pencils, paper, crayons, markers, and calculators. Your kind donation will also help cover a portion of Teach STEM Africa cohort participants' travel to Ghana.

We are grateful for your support and welcome donations from now until November 30th. To learn more and donate, check out our Giving Tuesday page at www.gagives.org/organization/teachstemafrica.

WE'RE GHANA BOUND IN 2024!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COHORT PARTICIPANTS

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the participants of our Summer 2024 Professional Development Series Cohort! Our delight knows no bounds as we welcome a diverse group of educators and STEM professionals dedicated to sharing their knowledge and skills with Ghanaian educators. The series offers an opportunity for participants to engage with local educators during a teacher summit in Greater Accra, where they will exchange ideas and collaborate on ways to foster STEM education. Additionally, cohort members will visit schools and classrooms, gaining an insightful understanding of the Ghanaian education system and the challenges and opportunities that come with being an educator. In conclusion, participants will share their professional expertise and experience with Ghanaian educators by conducting STEM-focused professional development trainings, which can be easily integrated into the classroom.

We congratulate Dr. Legena KpinKpin, Lidia Galindo Brito, Carleen Thomas, and Alexandria Walton. Teach STEM Africa President and Founder, Dr. Kimberly West, and Board Member, Dr. Ian Parker, will also be working alongside the cohort participants in supporting the work of Ghanaian educators.

It's not too late to join the cohort! To learn more about how you can participate, please visit our website at www.teachstemafrica.org or email us at info@teachstemafrica.org to request more information.

EDUCATOR PERSPECTIVE: JOSEPH AMARTEY

Joseph Amarteay is an experienced Ghanaian educator with over 18 years of teaching experience. He currently instructs students aged 14–18 in a range of subjects that include science, English, mathematics, Our World Our People, Dangme (a Ghanaian language course), and history. Joseph's passion for teaching stems from his desire to impart knowledge, skills, and values that will enable his students to thrive as adults in the future. He strongly believes that education can positively impact society and is a transformative force for growth and development in Ghana and globally.



During the interview, Joseph highlighted several challenges of being an educator in Ghana. One of the most significant difficulties is the lack of adequate instructional materials and resources in many schools, which impedes effective teaching and learning. Additionally, students dropping out of school presents a significant obstacle, as many parents are unable to provide basic necessities such as books, pens, pencils, and uniforms. This lack of resources makes some students feel ashamed around their peers. Furthermore, absenteeism is a pressing issue, with some students missing school to work and support themselves. Yet, despite these challenges, Joseph continues to provide his students with the highest quality instruction and learning experience.