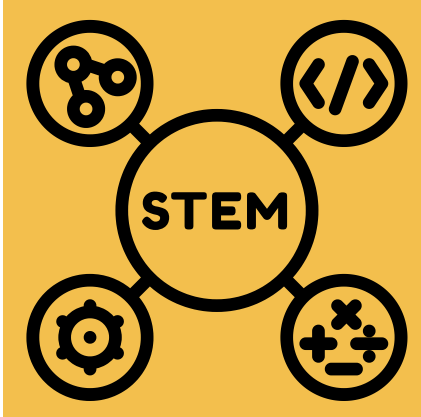


# FULL “STEM” AHEAD

A Publication of Teach STEM Africa

Summer 2024



## Opening Doors of Opportunity

Reflecting on Our Ghana 2024 Professional Development Series

During the Ghana 2024 Professional Development Series, our interactions with more than 700 Ghanaian educators were extensive, involving school and classroom visits, professional development training, and co-hosting the Outstanding Teacher Summit in partnership with Out International and the Ghana Education Service. The overarching theme for this year's series, "Opening Doors of Opportunity," marked our inaugural trip to Ghana, working closely with Ghanaian educators.

The Teach STEM Africa cohort began the series by visiting Victory Presbyterian Church School and the Adenta Community School, engaging in classroom observations, curriculum discussions with teachers, and hands-on activities with students. Notably, at the Adenta Community School, where Grade 7 students enthusiastically



### In This Edition:

**Opening Doors of Opportunity: Reflecting on Our Ghana 2024 Professional Development Series**

**Meet the Ghana 2024 Professional Development Series Cohort**

**Exploring the History, Culture, and Beauty of Ghana**

**STEM Tools You Can Use: Making Predictions**

**A Message of Gratitude from Dr. West**

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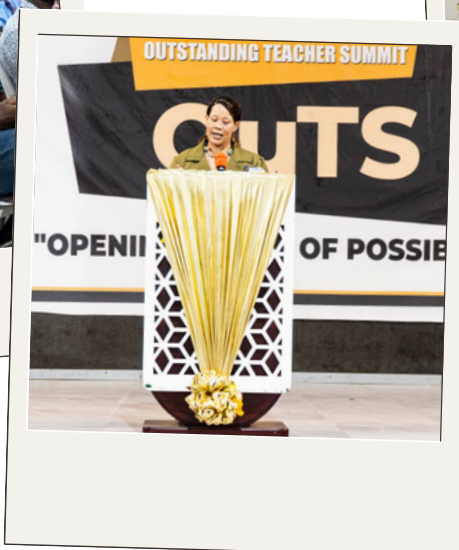
Teach STEM Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your tax-deductible donation funds our work and provides STEM resources to African schools and educators.

assembled STEM kits donated through a partnership with Mr. Jerome McQueen's company, AcaSTEMics, demonstrating interactive STEM education in action.

The next day focused on providing professional development sessions to approximately 60 educators from Adenta and the Greater Accra region. These sessions, facilitated by the Teach STEM Africa cohort of U.S. and Ghanaian educators and STEM professionals, covered a range of topics such as unpacking the new science standards, instructional strategies for science and math, STEM career pathways, and teacher well-being and mental health.

The culminating event of the series was the Outstanding Teacher Summit, bringing together nearly 700 educators from across the Greater Accra region. Founded by our partner Stella Gyimaah Larbi, Ghana's Outstanding Teacher 2022, the summit aimed to elevate the teaching profession and empower Ghanaian educators through speakers, informative sessions, and panel discussions, emphasizing the significance of STEM education.

Looking ahead, plans are in progress to expand next year's series to include more school and classroom visits, along with additional training sessions to further enrich the professional development experience.





# Meet the Ghana 2024

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES COHORT



**Dr. Kimberly West**  
Teach STEM Africa Founder & President,  
Science Educator (USA)



**Stella Gyimaah Larbi**  
Ghana Outstanding Teacher 2022,  
Out International Founder (Ghana)



**Joseph Amartey**  
Science Educator (Ghana)



**Kwaku Boateng**  
Science Educator (Ghana)



**Lidia Galindo Brito**  
Mental Health Specialist (USA)



**Sabina Koba Dosu**  
Ghana Outstanding Teacher 2019 &  
Science Educator (Ghana)



**Dr. Legena Roberts-Kpinkpin**  
STEM Career Specialist (USA)



**Ferdinand Sam**  
Aerospace Engineering Educator (Ghana)



**Alexandria Walton**  
Elementary Math & Science  
Educator (USA)

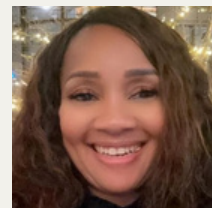
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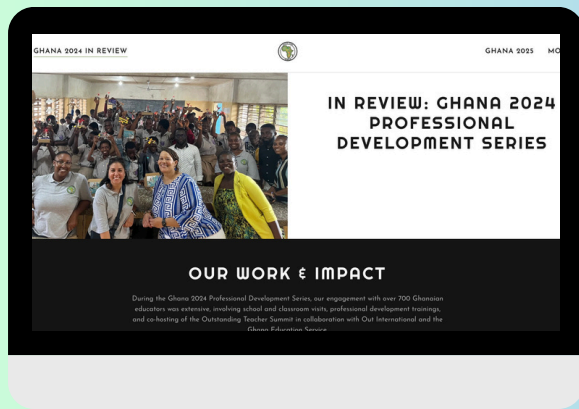


Dr. Roblyn Lewter



Dr. Lisseth London





**Visit us online for more  
pictures and videos from  
our Ghana 2024  
Professional Development  
Series!**

[www.teachstemafrica.org](http://www.teachstemafrica.org)

## **Exploring the History, Culture, and Beauty of Ghana**



One does not travel to Ghana without exploring its rich history, immersing oneself in the culture, and marveling at the natural beauty. Our trip to Ghana was not all work and no play. Rather, members of the cohort embraced all that is Ghana as they toured the country.

From the bustling markets of Accra to the serene beaches of Cape Coast, every moment was a new adventure. One of the highlights of our journey was visiting the historic Elmina and Cape Coast Castles. Both are a poignant reminder of the past and a testament to the resilience of our ancestors. Visiting the castles was not only educational but also provided a deeper understanding of Ghana's history and role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Our trip to Kakum National Park offered a thrilling experience as we navigated the canopy walkways suspended high above the lush rainforest. The breathtaking views and the sense of adventure left us all in awe of nature's wonders.

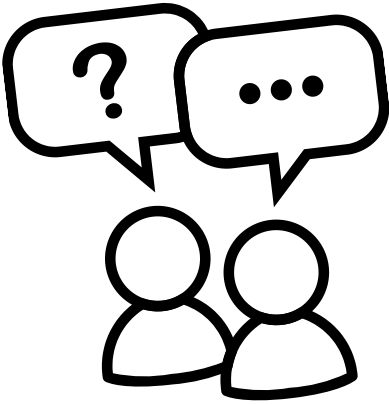
Every day in Ghana brought new discoveries, whether it was learning about the life of Ghana's first president Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, visiting the Art Centre and the Accra Mall, or watching a play at the Ghana National Theatre. The journey was more than just a trip; it was an immersion into a world rich with heritage and beauty, leaving us with memories that will last a lifetime.





## STEM Tools You Can Use: Making Predictions

One of the core ideas of STEM education is encouraging students to be curious and inquisitive. Having students make predictions about scientific phenomena and the world around them is an instructional strategy that can be used to fuel students' curiosity and creative thinking. When students make predictions, they hypothesize or forecast what they think will happen based on research, prior knowledge, observations, or experience. Asking students what they think will happen when two liquids are mixed or what will happen to a plant when grown in a dark room are two examples of how to use the strategy. In addition to making predictions, students should explain the reasoning and thinking behind their predictions. The reasoning may not be correct or perfect and that is okay. What matters is that students are engaged, curious, and using their creative and scientific thinking.



As you teach the skill and work with students, it is important to remember these steps:

- Model how to make predictions. Demonstrate your thought process and how you made your prediction based on prior knowledge, research, experience, or observations.
- Use concepts or theories that students are familiar with. Use content material recently taught in class, past units of study, or from previous grade levels.
- Encourage students to think for themselves based on their knowledge and experience.
- Allow students to share their predictions and explain their thinking, allowing them to make adjustments.
- Help students understand that the predictions made by others are valid and should be respected regardless if they think the prediction is incorrect.
- When making predictions at the beginning of an inquiry activity or experiment, allow students to compare their predictions with the actual outcome. Help them to understand that it is perfectly fine if their prediction is imperfect or incorrect.



**Dr. West &  
Faith Senyo,  
Ghana Outstanding  
Teacher 2023**

## A Message of Gratitude From Dr. West

The saying, “My Heart is Full,” is not strong enough to express my joy and gratitude for all that happened during our Ghana 2024 Professional Development Series. From the excitement and enthusiasm of the Grade 7 students at the Adenta Community School as they assembled their STEM kits, to the engagement of the more than 700 Ghanaian educators we worked with during our training sessions and the Outstanding Teacher Summit, and fun and laughs as we explored and embraced the culture, history, and beautiful landscape of Ghana, I am truly blessed. Thank you to our amazing cohort of educators and STEM professionals. Thank you also to the board and our donors. This experience would not have been successful without you. I cannot wait to do it again next year and hope that you will join us!





# Ghana 2025

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES & TOUR



**Join us in  
Ghana next  
year!**

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