

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





ABOUT EXPONENTIAL EDUCATION

Founded in 2010, Exponential Education (Expo) works at providing quality education to youth in the Kumasi, Ghana region. Expo implements several after-school programs for youth in both Junior and Senior High School. These programs include academic lessons and community development initiatives aimed at growing knowledge, challenging gender norms, and promoting youth leadership. Over the past six years, Expo has been able to reach nearly 2,000 students through its programs. We aim to see a world where quality education is provided globally.

MISSION

Exponential Education is a non-governmental organization (NGO) comprised of a diverse staff working toward creating a future of social equality, community leaders, and agents of social change. We do this by providing resources, practical educational, and leadership training opportunities for youth and educators, and working closely with school administrators and partner organizations that share our commitment to youth empowerment and community development.

VISION

Exponential Education envisions a world where all primary children go to school and where classrooms have sufficient learning materials and educators. Complementing this, we envision a world where girls and boys have equal rights, educational levels, and leadership opportunities. Expo envisions a Ghana with strong local governments, and a society where all girls and boys can thrive and become their most successful selves.

OUR TEAM

In 2016 our team consisted of



5

Board Members

1 1

International
Staff

9

Local Staff

5 2

Tutors and
Mentors



Expo's Board Members

Helen Gradstien, *Founder and Director*

Amber Shevin

Denisse Halm

Adam Biddle

Taylor Chustz

PEER-TO-PEER TUTORING

Our flagship Peer-to-Peer (P2P) tutoring program involves training 5 "brilliant but needy" Senior High School (SHS) students as tutors for 30 struggling Junior High School (JHS) students. The program occurs twice a week, having one lesson in math and one lesson in English per week.

2016 saw a number of successes and challenges with P2P. We ran our first full year programs for P2P, when they historically have been term based programs. Through the introduction of this full year program, our Program Associates saw a great increase in the mentorship, leadership, and confidence skills of their tutors. Having a full year program also enabled our Program Associates and tutors to become more creative and incorporate even more Activity-Based Learning tactics to keep the JHS students engaged. This presented a few challenges but with hard work and ingenuity we worked through them. We ran 10 P2P programs in 6 different schools this year having a reach of 250 students. This also allowed us to provide scholarships to 10 tutors, and provide a part time job to 37 tutors helping them to offset the cost of their education.

Our hopes for the 2017 year with our P2P is to continue to implement useful and effective tutoring for JHS students while encouraging the livelihood and confidence skills of our SHS tutors.



Playing "squish Miss Julie" at a P2P session

WHERE WE WORK

All of our programs are run in the Ashanti Region in both urban and rural settings.



In 2016 we worked in a total of 17 schools allowing us to reach over 600 students.

Schools we worked in 2016:

Antoa JHS
Achinakrom JHS
Adanwomase JHS
Bonwire M/A JHS
Baworo JHS
C.B. Mensah School
Ejisu Model JHS
Gyinyase JHS
Mmofraturu JHS

Antoa SHS
Achinakrom SHS
Adanwomase SHS
Asanteman SHS
Bonwire SHS
Ejisuman SHS
Baworo ICCES
Kumasi High School



Girls LEAP at our Antoa School working in small groups

GIRLS LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACTION PROGRAM

2016 saw the second full year of the Girls Leadership, Empowerment, Action Program (Girls LEAP) being implemented in the Kumasi Region. In the 2015/16 academic year, we ran Girls LEAP Programs at both Asanteman SHS and Achinakrom SHS. Girls LEAP was positively received, including their mentorship sessions with JHS students during term 2 of the program. Due to this enthusiasm, the program expanded to a third school, Antoa SHS, for the 2016/17 academic year.

At the end of the 2015/16 academic year, the two active Girls LEAP Programs implemented their community service projects. Asanteman SHS focused their service project on sexual harassment as they identified it as an issue within their school and community. They wrote poems and a play dealing with sexual harassment and performed it in their assembly hall where nearly 100 JHS students, male and female, attended. Achinakrom SHS focused on teenage pregnancy for their service project. They partnered with a local government hospital and put on an event in their school assembly hall where approximately 150-200 male and female students attended to discuss the issues and solutions around teenage pregnancy.

We look forward to our programs in 2017 and the impact they will have on their communities.

BOYS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

With the success of Girls LEAP, Expo saw a need for a similar program catered towards young boys. Hence, Boys for Positive Change (BPC) was created. BPC's mission is to sensitize boys to recognize the social norms underlying gender inequality and empower them to become agents of positive change by challenging these norms. The curriculum covers a number of topics including gender roles, addressing feelings, violence, gender based violence and sexual violence, masculinity, and family roles.

We ran our pilot program in Term 1 of the 2016/17 school year at Antoa SHS. The program had a total of 13 participants and it was received very positively. Due to this success, we have implemented another BPC Program at Asanteman SHS, beginning January 2017 to complement the Girls LEAP already in session at that school.



Boys doing an energizer before engaging in discussion



Antoa students using the 3D Printer purchased with the LUV Grant

LEVEL UP VILLAGE

In 2016, Expo partnered with Level Up Village (LUV), an organization based in the US that delivers pioneering Global STEAM (STEM + arts) enrichment courses that promote design thinking and one-to-one collaboration between students from around the world. LUV allows local teachers to gain knowledge and experience in STEAM, and collaborate on ideas with teachers worldwide. In the past year we have been able to introduce a number of LUV classes in the schools in which we already work. These classes include Global Doctors: Anatomy, Global Doctors: DNA, Global Conversations: Malala Yousafzai, Global Video Game Designers, and Global Web Design. By implementing LUV classes the schools also receive a grant from the contributions of their partner school in the US. With this grant the local school is able to decide what they would like to spend it on; for example our C.B. Mensah School in Antoa bought a 3D Printer with their grant, as photographed above.

After introducing the LUV program to Expo's list of programming we saw the need to bring on additional staff members. We were pleased to bring on Yasme Asamani-Danquah as the LUV coordinator and a valued staff member.

MEASURING IMPACT

Exponential Education is working to improve our Monitoring and Evaluation systems in order to create meaningful and accurate reporting, which will in turn will strengthen our programs and the direction in which our organization moves.

PEER - TO - PEER

Our P2P Program measures impact through academic test results for JHS students and Learning Attitudes and Confidence surveys for the Tutors. Below shows the average growth rates in subjects each term in 2016.

2015/16 Academic Year

	Term 2	Term 3
Math	50%	4%
English	8%	27%

2016/17 Academic Year

Term 1
47%
30%

On average, our tutors' self perception of confidence and leadership skills improved after working with Expo for one school term.

GIRLS LEAP

Girls LEAP had a reach of 96 SHS, and 60 JHS students in 2016. This program also had a reach of over 250 with the girls community service projects

We are working to implement quantitative M&E tactics for our Girls LEAP. We had qualitative evaluations put forth from all of our Girls LEAP Program Associates this past year. Their reports show an improvement of the female participants' confidence, leadership, and communications skills. They also reported an increase in the drive for community involvement after completing the Girls LEAP Program.

LUV

LUV had a reach of 155 students and 5 teachers in 2016.

We are working to implement quantitative M&E for our LUV classes. However, our teachers have reported noticeable change in their students by gaining confidence and new technological skills, which they are not often provided opportunities to explore in the regular Ghana Education System. Teachers have also reported that they use more hands-on-learning and exploration activities in their regular classes outside of LUV.

BOYS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

In our pilot program for Boys for Positive Change, we administered a baseline and endline survey looking at the boys' perceptions on gender, masculinity, violence, and emotions. The answers to questions were rated from 1-4 creating an overall score. Higher scores represent higher egalitarian views (objectives met). The objective is to have all students at 100% as a perfect score.

Average Baseline

67%

Average Endline

75%

Average Growth

11%

MEASURING IMPACT

TESTIMONIALS

"Basically [Ghanian Education] is theoretical. But through [Level Up Lesson's] they are able to undertake some practical lessons that have broadened their understanding. And me as a teacher I've learned a lot. "

- Attakorah Mensah, LUV Science Teacher,
Antoa

"Girls LEAP has helped us improve our English and has empowered us to have more confidence, be brave, be more courageous and self reliant. It has helped us to learn more about ourselves, know our strengths and the power we possess as girls.

One thing we have talked about that was very helpful was discussions on power structures and making sure we do not view ourselves as inferior. "

- Girls LEAP Program Associates



Girls LEAP Participants



P2P Session using cards for learning

AKWNOLEDGMENT OF DONORS



Achinakrom Girls LEAP girls

Exponential Education could not exist without its generous donors. In 2016 we did a number of creative fundraising events which included:

Bi-Weekly Trivia Nights at Vic Baboo's Cafe, Kumasi, Ghana
Ask Me Anything Online Forum Events on Reddit
Staff Personal Fundraising Campaigns
Online and Social Media Campaigns

We are so thankful for everyone who contributed to Exponential Education in 2016 and enabled us to operate our programs!



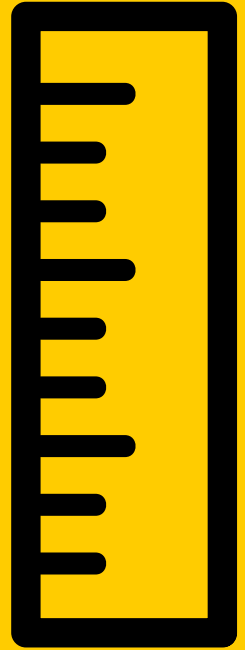
HOW YOU CAN HELP



Time



Money



Skills

As a Non-Profit organization, Exponential Education relies on the support of donors in order to implement our programs. Exponential Education receives the majority of its funding from generous individual donors. We accept donations in the form of monetary value and volunteered time and/or skills. If you have a passion for education why not help us by running a race or having a bake sale in our name? Contact us to find out more information about fundraising with Expo.

To continue to see the implementation of Expo's programs, consider donating your time, money, or knowledge to Expo today!

LOOKING FORWARD

Exponential Education aims to continue seeking out sustainable financial and human resources to continue programs and expand to more schools in the Ashanti Region. This work would not be possible without the support and guidance of our partner schools as well as officers in the Ashanti Regional Ghana Education Services office.

Expo is undergoing strategic planning in the new year allowing us to continually seek to improve our programs and methodology in order to better serve our students and their needs. Expo expects to continue to offer three P2P programs starting in term 2 of this academic year (January 2017). Expo also plans to continue its year-long Girls LEAP program model, continuing to offer the three current programs in term 2. In addition, we will expand our partnership with Level Up Village in the next school term, adding a new partner school and increasing the number of classes offered. We also hope to obtain more computers and devices for the partner schools to use in support of the LUV classes. We will be running the Boys for Positive Change program again due to positive feedback from the pilot project. Ideally, we hope to turn the program into a full year-long program to parallel the Girls LEAP program.

Exponential Education is always open to future proposals and partnerships. Current staff and volunteers eagerly anticipate the upcoming term and school year working in Ghana.



Bonwire JHS P2P Math Lesson

