Educational Communities Worldwide

Executive Summary:

Educational Communities Worldwide is a nonprofit organization that unlocks potential under-sourced students to become impactful global leaders, through access of holistic educational opportunities, resources, and common development.

Our scholarship program provides full-ride college scholarships to high school graduates in Ghana, teaching them the necessary skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The program selects 32 brilliant first-year students whose entire college education, hostel accommodation also, grants each student a laptop. We mentor and provide internships to our grant recipients during their college studies.

Since 2020, only 18% of high school graduates enroll in a university of Ghana, since then, a 40 percent school fees increased making it hard to enroll in the Parliament Universities. Most of these privileged students who enroll increase their work to pay for schooling; however, some students in Ghana are from the rural areas and are girls, which isn’t a priority for some families.

By receiving a scholarship, students can solely focus on their studies to prepare for the global workforce, creating a new generation of continuing education. By selecting 2 students from each of the 16 regions of Ghana each year, giving equal opportunity hope to make a consistent ripple wave in the rural-urban divide and gender gap in university enrollment and graduation.

Our scholarship programs include internships and mentoring to ensure our scholarship recipients are ready to be productive adults in the communities. This unlocks potential for under-sourced students to become impactful global leaders through holistic educational opportunities, resources, and community development. Educational communities Worldwide is a global resource that provides support for student K-12 through university.

The expected Cost of the Program is between $15,146.85-$107,268.02 annually depending on the number of students funded. The average cost of a 4/6-year college degree in Ghana is $3,000, including accommodation fees and the cost of one laptop. We seek to give scholarships to 32 students each year.

Statement of Need

Our scholarship program addresses Ghana’s low university enrollment rate. Although 78% of Ghana’s children attend high school, only 17% of high school graduates enter universities because of the high cost of tertiary education.

43% of Ghana’s population lives in rural areas, making their living from farming, livestock, and trade. Falling agricultural output, unemployment, and reliance on daily wages to meet daily basic needs. In such circumstances, high school students join their parents in the organized sector, working as laborers, traders, or bus conductors to support their families.

Gifted students who join university continue to do manual work to support their loved ones, and pay for their college and accommodation costs, which affects their attendance in performance in school.

Program description

The scholarship is open to first-year students in public universities who have applied for financial aid. Selection is based on students’ high school scores (WASSCE) and the essay they submit.

To ensure fair distribution of scholarships, we pick 2 students from each of the 16 regions of Ghana, with an equal selection of boys and girls.

The scholarship will pay for their entire college tuition (four to six years), hostel fees, and also provide each student with a laptop.

Each student will receive an internship and mentorship opportunity with our partner, The Force for Health Network. The Force if Health Network runs a virtual health academy and equips members with apps that gamify fitness decisions. It also provides collaborative health solutions for well-being projects undertaken by school and community organizations.

Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

To apply for this prestigious scholarship program eligible candidates must satisfy several demanding criteria. These include:

- Enrollment as a first-year student at a public university.

- Formal application for financial aid within the university

- Monthly household family income under $150

- Demonstrated academic excellence through high performance on standardized tests like WASSCE in key subjects like Math, Science and English.

In addition to these core expectations applicants must craft an engaging 500-word essay explaining why they are uniquely suited for the scholarship and demonstrate excellent command over the English language while doing so. This essay should highlight how receiving this scholarship would help shape their own personal ambitions while benefiting society overall.

Finally, candidates' voluntary or extracurricular activities can serve as excellent material to showcase character - demonstrating how individuals go above and beyond in their service to others.

Goals and Objectives

Every year, our goal is to offer equal opportunities to 32 outstanding young boys and girls from rural Ghana, enabling them to successfully complete their education.

· We aim to empower our students to educate their communities about the importance of health and fitness.

· We provide internship opportunities to our students, allowing them to gain valuable technical experience.

· Our focus is to support students throughout their academic journey by providing mentorship, while also preparing them to become mentors for future students.

Evaluation

The student is expected to maintain good grades throughout their tertiary term. At the end of the academic term, our scholars will complete an end of term survey. These surveys will help us understand each scholar’s persistence through academic terms and successfully work towards graduation. It gives EduCom greater insights into their academic, personal, and professional achievements (and troubles students may be facing) We will ask questions such as:

* What is your updated GPA?
* Do you intend to continue at your current college/university next academic term?
* Are you on track to graduate?
* Share a highlight of your past term.
* What are you most looking forward to next term?

At the end of the award periods, we ask each scholar to complete a post-award survey. This will typically take place twice annually, once after the fall academic term and once after the spring term, and include questions:

* Did this scholarship help you meet your educational goals? If so, how?
* Are there any ways we could improve our service to scholars like you?
* How was your experience working with EduCom staff and the organization‌?
* Do you feel EduCom contributed to your success? What would you give EduCom credit for?

Scholars are also expected to take part in the community health education, mentor assistance incoming first year scholarship students.

Budget

Our budget covers 4 options depending on the number of students your organization funds. Please review the summary budget below. Our Chief Finance Officer will be on standby if you need help to review the budget or if you have additional questions.

**Option 1 - Cost per year**

Number of students                                Four (4)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $12,247.93

Administrative cost         $2,898.92

Total estimated annual cost                    $15,146.85

**Option 2 - Cost per year**

Number of students                                Eight (8)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $24,165.70

Administrative cost         $5,797.84

Total estimated annual cost         $29,963.54

**Option 3 - Cost per year**

Number of students                               Sixteen (16)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $48,001.25

Administrative cost         $11,596.92

Total estimated annual cost         $59,596.92

**Option 4 - Cost per year**

Number of students                               Thirty-two (32)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $95,672.35

Administrative cost         $11,596.92

Total estimated annual cost         $107,268.02

***Details of these estimated amounts are available upon request.***