

## **BPS GLOBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: GHANA: Explore its rich history & proud culture – and bring lessons learned back to your classroom!**

*“Educators with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to value the diversity among students will contribute to an educational system designed to serve all students well.”*

*-- DENNIS VAN ROEKEL, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, 2008-2014*

This trip to Ghana represents a rigorous, short-term professional development opportunity – a chance to grow your cultural proficiency around a major African civilization. Improving the cultural competency in a school community can be a catalyst to closing achievement, social capital, cultural capital, and human capital gaps, creating a more equitable learning environment and a more just society for all.

Participating BPS educators will conduct interviews, meet with opinion-leaders, and generally come to know Ghana in unexpected, inspiring ways. You’ll come to know Ghana’s history, and its contributions to the contemporary ‘global village’. You’ll initiate partnerships with Ghanaian schools – and develop or add to curriculum around Ghana and the West African region.

You’ll explore contemporary issues and their relevance to Ghana’s rich culture and history. The in-country component includes structured visits and active learning at schools and universities, plus a wide range of other supporting activities— from cultural and historical site visits and resource conservation workshops to peer shadowing sessions and lectures led by college professors and expert facilitators.

As a result of your participation in this program, you will:

- ✦ **Explore Ghana’s history & global contributions:** In brief, intensive classroom venues, you will acquire historical context – and an appreciation for the contributions of 20th-/21st-century Ghana and Ghanaians.
- ✦ **Build school partnerships:** You will very actively assess where partnerships can make most sense. In Ghana, as elsewhere, many schools are candidates for relationships with US schools. Moreover, there are many types of potential exchanges and relationships. You will make informed decisions on how best to initiate sustaining institutional relationships.
- ✦ **Learn about Ghanaian education trends:** You will come to understand Ghanaian education through interactive dialogues, purposeful site visits, structured interviews, workshops with peers, and more. You will come to appreciate Ghanaian student life and the Ghanaian national school system, and you’ll use these observations to reflect on your own school experiences. Ideally, you’ll identify new themes for BPS curriculum design.
- ✦ **Hear from and engage interactively w/ Ghanaian writers.** You will interview and learn from writers and other artists, both in the US expatriate community and among Ghanaians.
- ✦ **Witness and interact with a Ghanaian filmmaker, contemporizing the oral storytelling tradition.** You’ll document your own learning experience on film – and prominent Ghanaian storytellers will be empaneled to facilitate the process.

## **TAKE AWAYS**

1. Grow your cultural proficiency around a major African civilization.
2. Inspire your own BPS students with new knowledge of West Africa and its people, and American history and culture.
3. Understand the long history of Ghana’s people & communities, stretching back millennia, and come to appreciate that the Atlantic slave trade represents only a fraction of this proud nation’s history.

### **Service Learning: Think Locally, Act Globally – Cultural Competency in Practice.**

You will take part in a service learning project. This PD will have a double focus on cultural and social justice, allowing participants to be active agents for change with peers in local communities.

