



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: GESSL LAUNCHES COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR IT'S SECOND YEAR!**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone - April 29th, 2016 - Girls Empowerment Summit Sierra Leone (GESSL), a program which seeks to inspire, empower and enlighten young Sierra Leonean girls in secondary schools, continues to expand after 4 years of service and ground breaking work in Sierra Leone.*

### ***COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Methodist Girls High School***

***This year, GESSL's girls are playing a part in developing their school community by donating chairs and tables to Methodist Girls High School. This is in the effort that girls aren't sent home due to the fact that there aren't enough chairs in the school for them to attend lessons. The girls in each of the various schools will be participating in fundraising efforts towards the project at MGHS. Throughout the year and are building a community development project team with representatives from each of GESSL's schools. The project is in its second year and the girls are very excited about bringing change to their school community. The previous year, the girls from St Joseph's Secondary School implemented a "Clean my School" Campaign.***

Developed in 2012, GESSL was launched by two Sierra Leonean female leaders who felt that there wasn't a space where young girls were being developed and nurtured as leaders to ultimately serve as community-changing leaders of the next generation. GESSL partners with 5 schools in Sierra Leone and executes year-round workshops and programming for girls aged 12-17 who are vulnerable to various things such as teenage pregnancy, abuse, and dropping out of school, and nurtures them through the program, while creating a peer network of young Sierra Leonean leaders for the next generation. GESSL's team includes a dynamic group of young African women of various professions and backgrounds, who bring their skills, ideas, and networks to the organization.

#### ***GESSL's programs include:***

1. An Annual Summit: A once-a-year 3-day program to bring young Sierra Leonean girls together to participate in leadership development workshops.
2. Year-Round Mentorship Workshops: A series of workshops led and facilitated by Sierra Leonean females to enhance the learning of our girls in the areas of leadership, health, technology and community development. The mentors also provide year-round support to our girls.
3. Community Development Projects: A year-long project led by our girls within their school communities to solve a particular problem in their school community.
4. Emergency Assistance to Families: A program set up to support the needs of our families in times of crisis.

**“GESSL Enlightens, Inspires, and Empowers Young Sierra Leonean girls”**

***For more about GESSL and to support our work, please visit [www.girlsempowermentssummit.org](http://www.girlsempowermentssummit.org) or Contact: [info@girlsempowermentssummit.org](mailto:info@girlsempowermentssummit.org)***