## Diana D. Osei

I am one of the four Ashesi University College graduates who benefited from the EPI scholarship during its maiden "Call for Scholarship Applications" in Ghana, West Africa. Backed by the EPI financial support, I enjoyed the peace of mind to focus on my rigorous higher education curriculum without interruption. I gained knowledge that opened me up to new possibilities. I developed my passion for sign language and am now working on a software project to scale up sign language instruction to basic mainstream schools all across Ghana.

EPI's support also reminded me to keep up with my community service and extra-curricular activities, and doing so really enhanced my CV for the Ghanaian job market. I am happy to reveal here that my current full-time job was recommended to me by a fellow EPI alumnus. That was possible because EPI Alumni have a culture of networking and sharing opportunities. Having graduated from university, I often find myself counting my blessings and recognizing that I am now a part of a unique group of gifted young Ghanaians called, EPI Alumni, who are poised to serve mother Ghana with integrity.

As one of the pioneering beneficiaries, I recently volunteered to serve as the first EPI Alumni secretary. Together with my team of executives, we are laying a solid foundation for ourselves, based on community service, peer-mentoring and innovation, to ensure that future EPI beneficiaries continue to enjoy the love and moral support that comes with being a part of the big EPI family. We have welcomed the third graduating class into the EPI Alumni family, and just like the rest of us, their desire to give back to Ghana – despite personal challenges – burns strong. Each of us has received the priceless gift of higher education and cannot help but pay it forward.

