Initially inspired by the “Teacher Leadership” session at the 2014 ILEP Welcome Program, and followed by an experience teaching at an all-girls charter school in Albany, New York, Adeline returned to Ghana ready to spearhead a change in student leadership structures. Recognizing that many of the leadership roles at her school were filled by young men, she drew on her experience at The College of Saint Rose to outline an effort to increase academic performance and school attendance for girls. Naming the group the Girls Empowerment League, Adeline connects female students in Northern Ghana to female role models, and engages them in leadership development activities to improve their self-esteem, self-worth, and confidence in the abilities as “agents of societal change”. Coordinating with two other ILEP Alumni, 60 female students successfully completed the mentorship program in 2015; Adeline hopes to continue to implement trainings in other schools in her community in the near future.

“When girls have something to say they’d rather be quiet because they are socialized to think that men are the voices of society, but the Girls Empowerment League breaks that perception.”

—Adeline