



G.E.A.R.

Gusii Educational & Advancement Resources

24201 South Woodland Road, Shaker Heights, OH, USA

Dear future GEAR member,

It gives me great to extend this special membership invitation to join Gusii Educational and Advancement Resources (GEAR).

GEAR, a registered 501(c) 3 non-profit organization was initiated at a MKIDA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July 2007. The mission of this noble organization is to actively participate in resource mobilization, aimed at enhancing and developing educational opportunities of the Gusii child. Among our many objectives, is to find means of raising the living standards, nurture the general growth, and front the welfare of the Gusii child.

The GEAR Interim Committee has made strides thus far in beginning to fulfill the organization's mission and objectives, including completion of the constitution, formalizing and incorporating the organization, and drawing the year's calendar. Please see the attached summary for a list of other engagements that we have accomplished since our formation. You can also obtain more information including the current GEAR constitution, recent activities, and calendar of planned events, at our website www.gusiieducaton.org.

In order to facilitate the process of registration, I have included a GEAR membership application form, for your convenience. Please complete the application form and mail it together with a check or money order in the amount of \$100.00 payable to: Gusii Educational & Advancement Resources (GEAR). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (216) 687-3591 (office) or (216) 295-1992 (home) or by e-mail at j.bagakas@csuohio.edu.

Thanking you in advance for your commitment,

Sincerely,

Joshua Gisemba Bagaka's, Interim Chair



Gusii Educational & Advancement Resources

Membership Registration Form

Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership Desired: _____

- Corporate Member (\$100)
- Individual Non-Student Member (\$100)
- Individual Student Member (\$50)

Check or money order should be made payable to:
Gusii Educational & Advancement Resources (GEAR).

Mail completed application form and payment to:
24201 South Woodland Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Summary of GEAR Progress Report

GEAR select committee has been meeting bi-weekly for the last one year. The following are some of the accomplishments to date:

- GEAR was registered on February 12, 2008 with the necessary articles of incorporation to be a Non-Profit/Tax-Exempt Organization in the State of Ohio. We immediately applied for and obtained a federal employer identification number (EIN) which allowed us to open an organization account at KeyBank National with the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer as signatories. Our Legal Secretary, Laban Opande, has started working from the initial articles of incorporation to file for the tax exempt status.
- We have completed drafting the GEAR constitution. Though the process was long and time consuming, we believe we have a decent working document which captures the spirit of which GEAR was formed. One aspect in this constitution was to recognize the role MKIDA played in the conception and nurturing GEAR, especially at its infancy. As a result, MKIDA will be an automatic corporate member of GEAR and a member of MKIDA will also serve as a member of the GEAR executive committee.
- Two research projects focusing on identifying factors that impact Gusii students' academic performance are being undertaken. Some preliminary findings from these studies are expected to be made available at the 2008 MKIDA/GEAR conference. It is believed that these studies will serve as a basis for a research proposal to be prepared with intent to seek funds to carry out major studies based on primary data to be collected on the ground.
- The GEAR website has been completed with the help of Matunda Nyanchama.
- The Third Annual GEAR conference is being planned to be held July 11-12, 2008 at the Twin City where further progress will be reported. At this conference, the venue for the Fourth Annual GEAR conferences will be announced.
- A membership recruitment message has been sent out targeting specific areas in the Diaspora, where a large number of our constituency members reside.
- Efforts and underway to identify well performing and needy students to be considered for GEAR sponsorship. The objective is to identify good mannered and well performing students with financial limitations to finance their secondary education. GEAR will then sponsor such student(s) throughout the secondary education. At graduation, this student will now be come a GEAR Alumni.