

# *citation*

## *Honorary Fellow of COL*

*Some call her Esi while others call her Auntie Esi but to all Ghanaians, Esi Sutherland-Addy is a household name. She embodies education and recreation among children while symbolising the pursuit of academic excellence among adults. Her golden voice rings encouragement to the ears of students and her pen scribbles determination and vision for all African women.*

*Esi is a mentor. She began as a language teacher combining French and English. In her leisure hours, she rallied young secondary school girls and spent time with the youth in drama and African cultural studies. It is no surprise that when she takes to the folkloric dancing floor even to-date, the audience stands to gaze and applaud her rhythmic steps.*

*From Accra through Paris to New York, whether in Akan, French or English, her works in university faculties, in publishing and in consultancies reflect excellence in human development. Twice a Minister of State for Culture and Tourism and Higher Education, she changed the face of higher education in Ghana by implementing distance education on a large scale in all public universities, particularly at the University of Education, Winneba which she established for teachers in 1992.*

*Esi pulls behind her a wagon of awards, appointments and publications and whether they are for meritorious service in public life or for the advancement of education for the youth or for the emancipation of women, her focus is mainly on the African and for the less privileged. She is a listener in discussions and to crown it all, she cooks good home-coming, finger-licking dishes! Auntie Esi is Mother to one and sister to another. Her unassuming disposition makes her a colleague but her firmness also qualifies her as helper of the weak.*

*When the Commonwealth Secretary-General nominated her to the Board of Governors of COL in 1996, Esi came in to champion the voice of member African countries just as she has been doing for women through the Forum for African Women Educationalists and for education in general at UNESCO.*

*Mr. President and Acting Chairman, I present to you a symbol of the pride of Africa, an embodiment of the African woman, a seasoned intellectual, a passionate educationist and a lifetime friend of COL and request that the title of Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning be conferred on Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy.*