



Girls Global Academy (GGA) is the only all-girls public high school in Washington, D.C. GGA is a community of dedicated innovators who believe girls matter; the school is designed with the particular needs of girls of color in mind. We welcomed our inaugural class of 9th graders in August 2020. Since then, we have been committed to providing our students with a high-quality, challenging, and internationally recognized-education that aligns with the mission of our school. Girls Global Academy is dedicated to the liberating and empowering mission of fostering pathways to *lead and learn* by educating our students to be globally minded and confident leaders equipped to graduate prepared for the dynamic postsecondary landscape.

GGA takes immense pride in being an authorized International Baccalaureate® (IB) World School serving girls from all wards of Washington, D.C. As an IB World School, GGA emphasizes inquiry- and discussion-based learning, critical thinking, and the real-world application of knowledge. Our students pursue one of two IB pathways: engineering or business. Girls Global Academy has approximately 183 students engaged in innovative projects that spark curiosity and critical thinking and prepare them for future careers. In our High School of Business and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs, our scholars are engaged through in-school and out-of-school enrichment opportunities. High School of Business is a comprehensive and industry-focused curriculum that equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the business world. PLTW provides hands-on, project-based learning experiences. Our STEAM curriculum incorporates the Arts through culinary arts and our vocal music programs.

Through our innovative model, GGA is committed to equipping the next generation of leaders with the confidence and compassion to navigate the world in any path they may choose. We seek general operating support for the STEAM programs at Girls Global Academy. Funding will support technology and equipment purchases, enrichment opportunities through club fees and dues sponsorship, and transportation for out-of-school activities.

### A Growing Need

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, career fields within STEM are growing at twice the rate of other pathways. Despite this increased demand, there has been a decline in graduates in these fields, particularly among young women of color. Through Career Technical Education at Girls Global, all students select either a Business or Engineering pathway. We intentionally identified these career paths because they are in high demand for workers, are broadly applicable across several job sectors, and do not currently have high numbers of women of color. We do not expect every student to follow these specific career paths after they graduate from Girls Global, but we do know that the design thinking and entrepreneurial mindsets they will develop at our school are crucial to our girls thriving in *any* industry they choose.

Our academic program provides a strong foundation in business concepts, economics, entrepreneurship, and the arts. Students engage in real-world business scenarios and passion projects that prepare them for college and career pathways. Through internships and service opportunities, students gain hands-on experience in STEAM-related fields. As our students are



more engaged in the learning process, we have noted an increase in attendance and fewer disciplinary referrals. They are excited to come to school and participate. Our goal is to foster more engagement by offering more enrichment activities such as clubs, internships, and travel opportunities. With continued support, Girls Global Academy can foster a unique learning environment that empowers young women to become confident, globally-minded leaders in STEAM and beyond.

### The GGA Mission

GGA's mission is to *foster pathways to lead and learn*. We do this through a comprehensive educational model that serves the needs of all students through its four pillars: sisterhood, scholarship, service, and safety. GGA's commitment to STEAM is evident in our instructional approaches, as well as experiential and service learning models. Students engage with essential questions and complex problems, developing critical thinking skills crucial for STEAM fields. Our discussion-based approach prompts students to explore complex texts rooted in global concerns, enhancing their ability to articulate and defend ideas - a key skill in scientific discourse.

Our students *lead and learn* through opportunities in the classroom and enrichment opportunities through clubs and after-school programs. We envision that philanthropic support will enable us to build their leadership and learning through participation and engagement in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Skills USA, and FIRST Robotics clubs, allowing us to cover the required chapter fees and membership dues for our school and students.

### Call to Action

Girls Global Academy requests funding of \$50,000 to support experiential learning rooted in STEAM and community engagement, which will enable our scholars to pursue in and out-of-school opportunities.

Philanthropic support will enable us to:

- Provide access and exposure to computer-aided design (CAD) programming for Engineering design and implementation. Currently, students have 1:1 devices, but we need additional technology resources due to hardware, memory, and specific programs.
- Purchase an adequate number of robots for students to build and practice, leading them closer to competition for FIRST Robotics.
- Participate in the SkillsUSA conference, held annually in Atlanta, GA. Ten students will attend and compete against their peers at this conference. We envision a fully supported program, with coaches and mentors, as they work to compete against other students from across the nation.
- Showcase students' final projects in Global Gatherings that would give them an opportunity to demonstrate their use of programs and receive feedback from industry partners.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of Girls Global Academy.