



The future Girls Leadership Academy of AZ

Engage. Educate. Empower.

Making History. Making a Difference.

Inspired by the vision that all young women have the opportunity to shape their lives as leaders, Florence Crittenton spearheaded the "Crittenton Bill" legislation, providing a historic opportunity for us to open the first public all-girls school in Arizona. If you know of a young woman for whom our all girls school might be an excellent fit, please invite her to join this journey with us!

Call 602-288-4518 or email jmiller@flocrit.org for more information

Celebrating Student Success ...



Congratulations to **Cecelia Esquivel** and **Cynthia Valencia** who have been accepted to attend Mujer, Inc.'s 15th Annual Leadership Retreat "Voces de Carnaval," in Prescott, Arizona.

Mujer, Inc. creates opportunities for Latinas to excel professionally, emotionally, and spiritually. Senior, **Elizabeth Zapata**, truly demonstrates the resolve and commitment necessary for future success. Elizabeth has attended the academy since her sophomore year after struggling with the lack of personalization at a larger high school. Elizabeth is committed to doing what it takes to graduate from the academy in December, and has taken advantage of the support offered by her teachers. She knows they are willing to help "no matter what." Elizabeth is proud of all she has accomplished, especially because she will be the first in her family to graduate high school and college. "There's more to come after high school, and I know the future will be better for me. **I will set the standard,**" says Elizabeth. Determined to make her parents proud and to be a role model for her younger siblings. Elizabeth is an exemplary student, as noted by David Seay, her English teacher, "Elizabeth is not only firmly committed to her education, and the time necessary to be successful, but she also inspires this commitment in others. She leads by example." Elizabeth loves discovering new things in science and is dreaming of attending the University of Arizona and becoming a registered nurse.



Women who make a difference ...



We are honored to welcome renowned author, **Stella Pope Duarte**, to teach creative writing for the remainder of the semester. Stella brings to our students a wealth of experience in education and writing. Author of *If I Die in Juarez* for which she received the 2009 American Book Award, Stella began her writing career in 1995 following a prophetic dream. She has been described as an author who writes with a "sure hand and a pure heart," and as someone who will "enlarge humanity."

We are also deeply grateful to **Kathy Hanrahan** who recently sponsored six of our students to attend the **YWCA Maricopa County Women's Empowerment Lecture** at Vincent on Camelback where they had an opportunity to meet former White House doctor, **Dr. Connie Mariano** and hear about her book *The White House Doctor: My Patients Were Presidents – A Memoir*. Very used to breaking the glass ceiling, Dr. Mariano has achieved an impressive list of "firsts" that include:

- the first military woman to become the White House Physician to the President
- the first woman Director of the White House Medical Unit
- the first Filipino American in US history to become a Navy Rear Admiral

What a thrill for our students to hear first-hand stories from this remarkable woman, told with grace, humor and passion.



The future

Girls Leadership Academy of AZ

Making History. Making a Difference ...

In August 2011, we will launch The Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona, the first, public all girls charter high school in Arizona. We are excited to offer all girls in our community an opportunity to experience quality education in a gender specific environment. The Girls Leadership Academy will provide young women and their families many opportunities to learn both in the classroom and beyond. Students will have early college access through dual enrollment and Arizona State University Connections. We are proud to partner with the ASU Collegiate Scholars program to expose students to the college experience and the ASU Dream Academy to provide parents with the information necessary to support their children as they fulfill their dreams of a college education. Through community partnerships such as these, service learning, internships and enrichment activities, young women who choose to attend the Girls Leadership Academy will be immersed in a rigorous academic environment where they will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for becoming leaders in their own lives, in their families, and in their communities.

Meet our New Chief Academic Officer ...



Leading our change will be Ms. Yvonne Watterson, who recently joined our school. Ms. Watterson's career spans over 25 years. Born and raised in Northern Ireland, she graduated from Queen's University of Belfast and began her professional journey as a high school English teacher. Like so many Irish before her, Yvonne was drawn to the dream of America, and eventually settled in Arizona, where she has held a variety of teaching and administrative assignments in Arizona in both the K-12 and college setting. Ms. Watterson is a charter school advocate and has spent the last decade working in charter schools. She pioneered the early college high school at GateWay Community College. Her work has been recognized by

"We want things to be easy for our children, and we know from sad experience that the world can be unkind to girls who do not please, who speak out, who go their own way. But we know from experience, too, that the role of the good girl can be a hollow one, with nothing at the center except other people's expectations where your character might have been." Anna Quindlen

the State Board for Charter Schools as an example of the positive impact of charter schools in Arizona. She has also been recognized for her leadership and efforts by the AZ Department of Education Director's Institute Leadership award in 2005. In 2008, She received the City of Phoenix Martin Luther King Living the Dream Award, the Moral Courage Award from Northern Arizona University, the 2009 Girls for a Change "It Girl" Award, and in 2010 received the Tribute to Women YWCA Racial Justice award. Her passion, leadership, and advocacy for students will provide a solid foundation in which to launch the first, public all girls charter high school in Arizona.

Girl Power!

Empowering young women to become active participants in their own lives is fundamental to

our mission at the Academy.

To that end, Girls for a Change recently joined us to kick off their national campaign and partnership with U by Kotex.

"Empowering girls to believe in themselves and see themselves

as social change agents starts with helping them to overcome the negative messages about girls that swirl around them constantly. If a girl does not feel comfortable in her own skin, it is almost certain she will suffer in all areas of her life. We see this campaign as a gutsy and bold move to share the message that girls should not feel shame in being a girl. When a girl feels empowered she is unstoppable and capable of amazing things!"

Our young women were open and engaged in the morning workshop asking questions, talking openly and sharing their own experiences. We are excited to partner with Girls for a Change to educate our students on how to create and lead change in themselves, their lives and communities.



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