



Florence Crittenton

*Where Hope Comes to Life*

**Contact:**

Megan Rose, Gordon C. James Public Relations

602.274.1988 or 602.690.0801

[mrose@gcjpr.com](mailto:mrose@gcjpr.com)

**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Press conference kicks off first all girls public charter high school opening fall 2011

---

*School boasts small class sizes, highly accredited teachers*

PHOENIX (June 22, 2011) – All young women in the Valley now have an option to attend the first all girls public charter high school in Arizona. In August, Florence Crittenton will open the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona.

Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona will offer a college preparatory education with a strong emphasis on developing the leaders of tomorrow. Applying best practices in secondary reform from across the United States, Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona will share the attributes of high schools that work: a common focus on research-based goals and an intellectual mission; small personalized learning communities; technology as a tool for designing and delivering engaging, imaginative curricula; and, rigorous academic standards for both high school work and the first two years of college level studies. Poised to be a hub of learning for the community, Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona will challenge young women to develop those critical thinking and independent learning skills that will ensure their success in work, community life, and college.

Research shows that there are benefits to single gender education, including high academic achievement, higher self confidence and in the case of minority students, increased college enrollment. However, as Head of School, Yvonne Watterson, points out, “Currently, the only single gender educational options in the Valley are private schools, which are often cost prohibitive for some families. We are excited that in August, families seeking a tuition-free all girls school, will finally have an innovative new option at Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona.”

Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona aims to meet the challenges of the 21st century by preparing young women to pursue a college education and a successful life beyond college graduation. We expect our students to graduate with the ability to collect information, think systematically and critically about that information, create new knowledge, and express and apply their thinking to real world problems. Our curriculum is aligned to rigorous academic standards and performance assessments. Our students have

-more-





Florence Crittenton

*Where Hope Comes to Life*

opportunities to study in class, independently, in college courses, through community service projects, and through internships with local businesses and community organizations. An agreement with Phoenix College enables students to begin taking college classes in the ninth grade. Leadership will be embedded in all curricula, and enhanced by a weekly advisory program driven by “Girl Meets World,” a research based curriculum selected by Oprah Winfrey for her school.

Bringing this dynamic learning environment to life is an inspired and caring faculty, which will ensure every student has the opportunity to prepare themselves for post-secondary success in a supportive and academically challenging environment. Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona boasts a small faculty, two of whom hold National Board Certification. Supporting their efforts will be carefully selected partnerships including: Teach for America, AZ Quest for Kids, Junior Achievement of Arizona, ASU Collegiate Scholars Program, Stand for Children, American Dream Academy and artists-in-residence including award winning author Stella Pope Duarte and local playwright, James Garcia.

The Dorrance Family Foundation recently awarded Florence Crittenton a \$1 million gift to support Girls Leadership Academy. The gift includes an endowment to provide a permanent source of revenue for the school and allows the school to incorporate advanced technology to create a state-of-the-art learning environment.

“This gift supports the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona and the need for equal access to single gender education in a public school setting,” said Beckie Mayberry, chief development officer of Florence Crittenton. “We are extremely thankful to The Dorrance Family Foundation for helping us give girls in our community this unique learning opportunity.”

**A press conference with Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and key board members will be held on Friday, June 24 at 10:30am at the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona campus. To RSVP, please call Megan Rose at 602-690-0801. To learn more about GLAA or to enroll, contact Jennifer Miller, director of school and community engagement, at 602-288-4552.**

### **About Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona**

The GLAA 20,000 square foot campus is located at 715 W. Mariposa Street in Phoenix and has a café, medical office, physical education and a basketball court and fitness center. The school will enroll girls in grades 9-12.

-more-





**Florence Crittenton**

*Where Hope Comes to Life*

### **About Florence Crittenton**

Florence Crittenton is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and has been providing services to girls and young women in the metro Phoenix area for 115 years. Florence Crittenton's innovative programs and services touch the lives of nearly 2,000 girls and their families in Arizona each year.

###

