

# Press Release

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**Contact:**

**Pennye James**

**(443) 853-0081**

**pjames@girlsasceos.org**

**GIRLS as CEOs**  
Foundation  
ERADICATING INEQUITY. INVOKING EXCELLENCE.



**TWO BALTIMORE CITY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WHO ALSO ATTEND THE MISCHA TOLAND ENTREPRENEURIAL ACADEMY FOR GIRLS HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PRESENT AT THE GIRL BULLYING & EMPOWERMENT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA THIS JUNE**

BALTIMORE – The Mischa Toland Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls announces the workshop proposal acceptance of two of its students at a well known national conference. This announcement is particularly exciting because in its ten year history, the Girl Bullying & Empowerment National Conference has not had high school girls actually facilitate a workshop before. While the conference itself attracts educators, social workers, and practitioners who work with girls and are trying to better understand girls, girls have been somewhat left out of the line up when it comes to giving voice to their challenges. This year that changes!

Candice Carter, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women and Keionna Henderson, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School will be escorted by Mischa Toland, CEO of Girls as CEOs Foundation to the conference which will be held June 20-22, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia to present a 90 minute workshop titled “*How Disproportionality & Marginalization Gives Rise to Anger in Girls of Color*”. Both young ladies are great leaders in their schools, are academic scholars, are unapologetically confident, and have accepted the charge to inspire other girls of color to challenge anything that would interfere with them rising to the occasion of their greatness.

While the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights lets us know that Black girls are suspended at a higher rate—12 percent—than girls of any other race or ethnicity and most boys. And while the groundbreaking publication *Race, Gender and the School to Prison Pipeline: Expanding Our Discussion to Include Black Girls* lets us know that Black girls were 36 percent of juvenile females in residential placement, we are honored to be championing a work that both teaches girls not to be in their own way while also challenging the inequities girls face.

As the CEO of Girls as CEOs Foundation and the Founder of the Mischa Toland Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls, Ms. Toland commends the conference planners for their foresight in selecting our girls’ proposal and sees this awesome opportunity as the beginning of a national, even global mission for the young ladies of the Academy to stand before audiences everywhere as the face of excellence, ingenuity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

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As a human service professional who has worked with girls for over 20 years, Ms. Toland has long since believed that our girls need their own platform to tell their own stories; and just as important, they deserve to be at the forefront of the conversations about how best to support and empower them.

### **About the Girl Bullying & Empowerment National Conference**

Relational Aggression (RA), in particular girl bullying, is recognized by educators, mental health workers, and professional who work with and/or conduct research with young people, as a major, growing concern. The effects of this and other kinds of bullying on children and adolescents can result in low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, self-injury, violence and difficulties in personally relating with other people. This conference ([www.stopgirlbullying.com](http://www.stopgirlbullying.com)) provides attendees with research findings, insight, practical strategies, programs and resources related to bullying with a primary focus on relationship aggression in girls. The conference does not endorse merely one particular program or approach to RA. This conference draws approximately 1,500 attendees from across the country.

### **About Girls as CEOs Foundation**

Established in March 2015, Girls as CEOs Foundation ([www.girlsasceos.org](http://www.girlsasceos.org)) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting improved quality of life for girls and women of color through awareness/advocacy, mentoring, philanthropic giving, and educational opportunities. Whether through our own programs or in concert with other female empowerment organizations, we address as well as teach girls and women how to soar above the distracting and discriminatory forces that attempt to get in the way of them actualizing their dreams.

### **About the Mischa Toland Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls**

The Mischa Toland Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls is powered by Girls as CEO's Foundation and is a non traditional eight month Saturday school which operates as an incubator that nurtures and protects the entrepreneurial dreams, aspirations and spirits of girls of color while preparing students to take their rightful place in the world as the next generation of promising innovators, visionaries and difference makers. In its second year, the Academy was founded by author, speaker, transformation coach and first generation entrepreneur, Mischa Toland and continues to be hugely supported by our sponsoring partner, Morgan State University's Entrepreneurial Development & Assistance Center ([www.edacmorgan.com](http://www.edacmorgan.com)) of the Earl G. Graves School of Business & Management.