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**CONTACT: Margee Herring**  
margeeherring@gmail.com  
910-233-2466

## **Wilmington's GLOW Academy Brings Single Gender, Low-Income, College-Bound National Education Model to North Carolina**

***Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington is one of 18 schools nationwide that comprise the Young Women's Leadership Network***

***YWLN Founder Ann Tisch to mark 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of first school in East Harlem with opening of Wilmington Charter***

On Monday, August 29, 100 6th grade girls in Wilmington, NC, most from disadvantaged neighborhoods, will begin their educational path toward college graduation. They are the first class of the [Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington](#), and are part of a proven network of high-performing schools started 20 years ago in East Harlem, by NY philanthropist Ann Tisch, the [Young Women's Leadership Network](#). With the intention of leveling the playing field for disadvantaged girls, YWLN schools are modeled on the finest private schools and paired with effective strategies to address the array of challenges faced by at-risk students. The high school graduation and college acceptance rates of YWLN schools have established this model as a leader in single gender low income education with graduates attending college at a rate four times greater than their peers. Ann Tisch and leaders from the YWLN will be in Wilmington to celebrate both the opening of GLOW Academy and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first school in East Harlem.

### **Proven Success with High Academic Achievement**

"We are thrilled to welcome GLOW into our unique network of all-girls' public schools that are proven to move girls into higher education and in a forward motion to lives of achievement and success," said Ms. Tisch. And, indeed, it is the college attendance and success in life that these schools and GLOW Academy are committed to delivering. Nationally, fewer than 60 percent of at-risk, low-income girls graduate from high school and fewer than 10 percent go to college. In YWLN schools, 95 percent of students graduate from high school and 100 percent of graduates are accepted to college, including prestigious schools such as Smith and Johns Hopkins. In fact, a recent independent study shows that YWLN girls enroll in college at twice the rate of their peers and earn bachelor degrees at four times the rate.

Academic rigor and college bound planning are essential to the curriculum. Expectations for academic achievement are high and course work demanding. But, GLOW Academy and its sister schools are founded on research that indicates a single gender education has many benefits, particularly for girls in lower income families. When boys aren't in the classroom, girls focus less on

their appearance and more on their classwork. They are more confident in their science, computer and math skills. And, they score higher on standardized tests, show higher levels of leadership behavior, do more homework, take more demanding classes and like school more.

In Wilmington, the academic focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is supported with six hours each week dedicated to arts or athletic electives. Drama classes will be taught by Wilmington's, Thalian Association Children's Theater. Drumming, voice, 2D art and dance will be taught by the local and nationally celebrated non-profit, DREAMS. Yoga, taekwondo, tennis and running are also available.

### **More About Young Women's Leadership Network**

The Young Women's Leadership Network empowers students to break the cycle of poverty through education. All are sixth through twelfth grade programs. The Network currently has 18 schools nationwide, five in New York City, one each in Rochester, NY, Baltimore, Chicago and St. Louis; eight in Texas and GLOW Academy in North Carolina. The network estimates more than 8,000 students will be enrolled during the 2016/17 school year. For more information visit <http://www.ywln.org/>.

### **More About GLOW Academy**

The Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington is North Carolina's first single gender charter school. The school opens Monday, August 29, with its inaugural class of 100 sixth graders. Each school year, a new class of sixth graders will be added, resulting in full sixth thru twelfth grade enrollment and its first graduating class with the 2022/23 school year. For more information, watch this video: <http://yhoo.it/2bOPdaf> and visit [glowacademy.net](http://glowacademy.net).

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