



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

What is GLOW Academy (Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington)?

GLOW Academy is a 6 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade public charter school for girls dedicated to leveling the playing field so that all girls in our area have equal access to a transforming education, with a focus on first generation college goers.

What is its mission?

GLOW Academy educates young women from diverse backgrounds through middle and high school, in a nurturing community with rigorous college preparatory curriculum to develop leaders who will succeed in college and beyond.

When and why did GLOW begin?

GLOW has been serving girls in the area since the summer of 2014. Our founders recognized a lack of educational options as a significant contributing factor to generational poverty and decided to do something about it.

Where is GLOW located?

For the first four years of the school we are located at 606 South College Rd., behind the Greek Church and across the road from UNC-W.

How many girls will GLOW enroll each year?

GLOW will enroll a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of 100 students each year.

How many grades will GLOW have?

GLOW will be a 6 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade school, graduating our first students in 2023.

What are the criteria for acceptance in GLOW?

While there are no criteria for acceptance, other than being a rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl, our desire is to maintain a student body that focuses on first-generation college goers and students who need this opportunity.

Are all the girls ‘first generation’ college goers?

Our first class (the class of 2023) of 100 students is made up of 92 first generation college goers.

If GLOW is a charter school, is it public or private?

GLOW is a North Carolina Public Charter School. We are held to the same academic standards as any NC Public School. In addition we are free to be creative in our curriculum design and delivery.

Where does GLOW get its funding?

GLOW is funded in part by the state of NC (approximately \$7,900 per student). The balance of the funds needed to educate our students in accordance with our model, comes from individuals, foundations and corporations (approximately \$500,000 annually).

If I contribute to GLOW, where will my money go?

GLOW NC supplements many programs that support our students including:

- College Bound
- Extended Day Learning
- Summer Leadership Academy
- Learning Circle STEAM Emersion Days
- Transportation
- Food Services
- Facilities
- Summer Bridge
- Camp GLOW
- College Visits &
- Experiential Learning Trips

The comprehensive campaign currently underway seeks to raise funds for operations (see list above), capital (need to move into a “forever” home in August 2020) and endowment/future growth. All money raised will go directly to the benefit of the students of GLOW.

Tell me about GLOW’s founder, Judy Girard?

Judy Girard is a force of nature. She retired to Wilmington in 2008 with full intentions of sitting on the beach and reading books. That didn’t work out so well. Judy is a visionary and a power broker, lending her talents and connections that she built from a storybook career in the radio and television industry. As **President Emeritus of the Food Network and HGTV**, she is credited with building each of these brands. Her relationships and respect span the nation, and GLOW is fortunate that she has chosen to lend herself to ensuring the success of this school.

I understand GLOW is affiliated with other girls’ schools. What is that all about?

GLOW Academy is the seventeenth school in the nationwide network of schools known at the Young Women’s Leadership Network (YWLN). YWLN is the foremost authority on girls’ single-gender public education in the country. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, YWLN boasts high school graduation and college acceptance rates that are nearly unheard of for at-risk girls: National statistics show that 60% of at-risk girls graduate from high school and less than 10% of those go to college. In the YWLN network schools, 96% graduate from high school and 100% of those are accepted in college. In fact, a recent independent study shows that YWLN girls enroll in college at twice the rate of their peers, and earn bachelor’s degrees at four times the rate.

What is in the future for GLOW? Other girls’ schools? Boys’ school?

To use a sports analogy, “we have not yet even begun to sing the National Anthem.” The board of GLOW NC is excited for future growth. During the charter hearing with the NCDPI Office of Charter Schools, the Directors said to GLOW, “please bring your school to other parts of the state.” We intend to do just that. The coming years will see the replication of GLOW in other cities in NC, the extension of our College Bound program into traditional public schools and who knows, maybe we’ll even be involved in a boys’ school movement down the road...

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