



BLUE RIBBON AWARD

The year the Young Women's Leadership Academy accepted the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon award for academic achievement, it was the only school in San Antonio to receive the coveted recognition.

The fact that the school had opened its doors only seven years earlier added to the surprise of the announcement. Only the Texas Education Agency can nominate a Texas public, private or charter school for the honor, which recognizes high academic achievement, the caliber of the program and the quality of instruction and teachers, as well as student commitment. It's a message colleges like to hear.

Over its short life, YWLA has seen 100 percent of its students not only graduate, but accepted into a wide range of universities across the U.S. The school continues to add new classes, such as robotics, at the students' request, to ensure YWLA girls have the intellectual curiosity, confidence and academic credentials to take their place among their peers as 21st Century thinkers and problem-solvers.

OUR MISSION

The Young Women's Leadership Academy is dedicated to the development and support of an all-girls public school focused on college preparation, responsible leadership, and an active, healthy lifestyle.



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GIVE THE LIFELONG GIFT OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

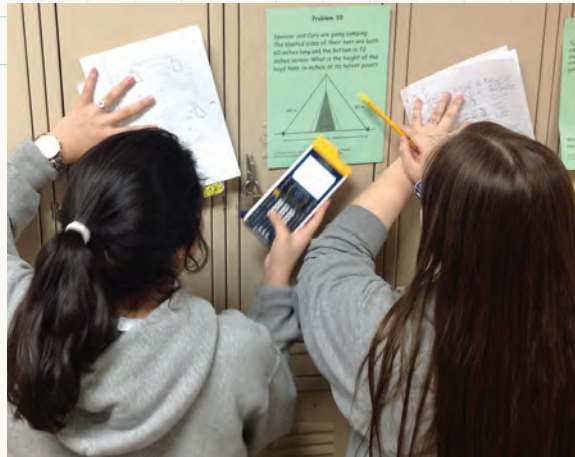


Your support and funding of student enrichment opportunities through the Young Women's Leadership Academy Foundation will bring unimagined opportunities to a young woman's future, creating confidence, and high expectations in generations to come.

A SCHOOL WITH TOTAL FOCUS FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND EDUCATIONAL TEAM

- Focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the Young Women's Leadership Academy offers a rigorous education curriculum, with a broad range of electives that includes the arts and humanities.
- The school also focuses on leadership and health and wellness, developing confident, college-bound students and emphasizing critical reading and thinking.
- Selection is based on a student's driving desire to succeed.
- Rigorous PSAT and SAT prep reduces test-taking stress and makes for high test scores.
- YWLA's College-bound Advisor identifies college opportunities and vital funding.
- The bar is high and students, 65 percent of whom are economically disadvantaged, find the demanding curriculum requires making academic achievement their priority.
- Even during the summer break, students carry a challenging load of reading and enrichment study.
- Goal setting and empowerment to speak out are as vital to success as math and science days, field trips to universities, academic enrichment and parental involvement.

"We want students who believe 'my life depends on this school,' and we want teachers who will challenge students to dig deeper." ~ Delia McLerran, YWLA Principal, Winner of the H-E-B Award for Excellence in Education Secondary Principal of the Year



EVELYN'S STORY

Principal Delia McLerran remembers dropping everything when she turned to see Evelyn Ibarra tapping quietly at her office door one morning. "I don't think I'm going to make it," she stammered, bursting into tears.

The young woman was then a sophomore, living miles from the school, with two siblings and a single mother, who held down two jobs. Evelyn started at 4:30 each morning, leaving home on

her bicycle, riding a mile in the dark to the first of three buses she took to get to school. It was the same two to three hours traveling home in the evening, which meant no time for after-school activities or friends, and unreliable Internet service at home compromised her homework effort.

Delia knew immediately there was only one solution. Starting the next day, Evelyn would come to live at her own home. Evelyn's mother also saw the value of the idea: her daughter would stay with the McLerrans during the week, and come home at weekends.

And so it was for the two and a half years to the end of her senior year. Against the odds, Evelyn graduated with top grades and a scholarship to a four-year university, clearly set on a path for success.

