Writing College Essays about STEM
Eleventh-graders put in hard work at the College Essay Boot Camp hosted by 360 Journalism at St. Thomas University. They reflected on some of the most influential moments in their lives and explored what inspired them to have an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). With the support of staff, writing coaches and one another, the girls wrote strong essays for college applications.

FUNdamentals of the Working World
“So far I have learned that good co-workers are important, and that I want a job that is always changing,” writes one Girls Inc. intern during Internship Boot Camp. The 10th grade girls attended career panels, practiced budgeting and discussed identity in the workplace.

Tennis at the Fort
Girls Inc. Eureka! promotes a “whole girl” approach, which includes a sports component. With a generous partnership from The Fred Wellstone Tennis Center, girls participate in weekly lessons where they develop skills, take risks and work as a team. Through healthy competition they also practice skills they will use at work and in the community.
Be Bold! Girls Inc. Week

In partnership with Circle of Discipline boxing gym, Girls Inc. youth attended a workshop about positive techniques for stress management and an introduction to boxing. Girls discussed what caused them healthy and unhealthy stress and shared ideas on what they do to relieve stress. This was just one of the many activities during Girls Inc. Week that focused on the importance of mental health awareness. Read more at ywcampls.org/girlsinc2018

Girls RAP Participant Shares Her Story at Circle of Women

Girls Inc. program participant Ricki Rushing was the youth speaker at YWCA Minneapolis Circle of Women fundraising event. Ricki was referred to the Girls Resolution and Prevention (RAP) program in 2015 and stayed involved with the program as a rising senior in high school. Ricki shared, “After a few sessions, I realized the girls weren’t bad at all. We had more in common than I thought we would. I heard their stories and they were like mine – they got caught up in stupid stuff and wanted to change. It was like we were all there for a reason – we were there to grow and learn together.” Through the Girls RAP program, Ricki learned how strong she already was and how powerful she could be. Read more at ywcampls.org/powerful
Girls Inc. Staff Honored for their Leadership

**YWCA June 2018 Employee of the Month: Annie Chen**

Annie Chen has been at YWCA Minneapolis since 2014, and was recently chosen as YWCA Employee of the Month. Annie enjoys using her creativity and strong problem-solving skills at work. Her passion for YWCA’s mission of eliminating racism and empowering women and girls is at the core of who she is. She says, “I am so glad that I can live the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women in my community and praxis, but also embody it in the workplace and have it embedded in the work I do with girls.”

![Annie Chen](image1.jpg)

**2018 Esther Tomljanovich Recognition Award: La’Kisha Hollmon-Griffin**

Earlier this summer, Girls RAP Coordinator, La’Kisha Hollmon-Griffin received the 2018 Esther Tomljanovich Recognition Award, an honor given to individuals whose contributions, advocacy and vision have demonstrated a commitment to women and girls involved in the justice system. Working with girls is what she feels she was born to do. Christa Perkins, YWCA Girls and Youth Director shares, “La’Kisha is dedicated to the positive well-being of the girls and the team she works with. She makes it her priority to deliver well-planned, interactive and thoughtful programming. She cares deeply for the girls and works tirelessly to ensure Girls RAP is providing the best support and resources.” Read more at [ywcampls.org/award](http://ywcampls.org/award)
Upcoming Events

STEM DAY at the Minnesota State Fair: August 23, 2018

Last year over 13,000, fair-goers visited STEM Day at the Fair to enjoy a broad variety of hands-on activities in STEM fields. Stop by the Girls Inc. booth this year for a fun activity and to learn more about our programs!

Society of Women Engineers Present: Invent It. Build It: October 20, 2018

At this special event, girls participate in a hands-on engineering experience with members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) from around the world. Girls also get a SWE swag bag, entered to win raffle prizes and have lunch with the SWE engineers! Learn more and register to attend: societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/invent-it-build-it