



of Carpinteria

## **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Girls Inc. Carpinteria Announces First Graduates of Eureka College-Bound Program**

*After five years of programming, first cohort of girls gears up for college this fall*

**CARPINTERIA, CA (June 19, 2017)** – Strong, smart, and bold girls from the inaugural cohort of **Girls Inc. of Carpinteria's Eureka! Program** will be walking the campuses of some of the top colleges in the state in just a few months, the nonprofit organization announced today. The first group of participants from the college-bound program proudly walked the stage earlier this month to receive their high school diplomas and are eagerly preparing for college in the fall.

*Eureka* is five-year program that emphasizes college readiness and breaks gender stereotypes by encouraging girls to explore career paths in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The program is designed to enable girls to overcome barriers to their achievement by providing a continual support system along with opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need to thrive.

“Combining college and career preparation, our focused multi-year effort exposes girls to female role models and diverse career paths while encouraging them to step outside their comfort zones and establish life goals,” said Victoria Juarez, executive director of Girls Inc. Carpinteria. “The programming helps build their confidence in achieving these goals so they can begin envisioning their own paths to success.”

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria launched the Eureka program in 2012 to provide leadership and education enhancement opportunities for teen girls, beginning the summer before their eighth grade year and seeing them through the end of high school.

The program kicks off with two consecutive summers spent at UCSB, and includes meetings with mentors, STEM engagement, field trips, and college tours throughout the year. In the third year of programming, participants shift their focus to the workplace with an immersive summer externship. The fourth and fifth years are committed to seeing the girls through to high school graduation and supporting them and their families as they navigate the college application process.

“We’re so incredibly proud of our first cohort of girls for everything they have accomplished and the milestones they’ve reached,” Juarez added. “They all have bright futures ahead and we know as future female leaders they will soon be inspiring the next generation of young girls.”

The program currently serves 76 local girls.

Following are the college-bound graduates of the Girls Inc.’s first Eureka cohort class:

- **Brenda Camacho**, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC)
- **Lisset Chavez**, California State University, Bakersfield
- **Ana Delgado**, UCSB
- **Eneida Dominguez**, SBCC

- **Guadalupe Echeverria**, SBCC
- **Jazmin Garcia**, SBCC
- **Jessica Irabon**, SBCC
- **Xochitl Moreno**, SBCC
- **Liset Navarro**, SBCC
- **Karen Nunez**, University of San Diego
- **Yulisa Rosales**, SBCC
- **Maria Zamora**, University of San Francisco

For more information about Girls Inc. of Carpinteria or the Eureka program, please call (805) 684-6364 or visit [www.girlsinc-carp.org](http://www.girlsinc-carp.org).

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*Girls Inc. of Carpinteria is a member of Girls Incorporated®, a nonprofit organization that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls through research-based programs and public education efforts that empower girls to understand, value, and assert their rights. We provide programs for girls 6 to 18 years old that focus on science, math, and technology; health and sexuality; economic and financial literacy; sports skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy. To learn more, become a volunteer or offer support, please visit [www.girlsinc-carp.org](http://www.girlsinc-carp.org).*

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