

National Coalition of Girls' Schools

ncgs

The
Girls' School
Advantage



Girls' schools—
where girls take
center stage.

WHAT DO GIRLS' SCHOOLS DO BEST?



A lot.

Whether they want to be astronauts, ambassadors, or accountants, girls need to know—not just think, but really know, deep down in their gut—nothing can stand in their way. Girls' schools send that message to girls every day.

There is enormous potential and power in being a girl. Girls' schools prepare girls for **lives of commitment, confidence, contribution, and fulfillment.**

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS...

Inspirational Environment

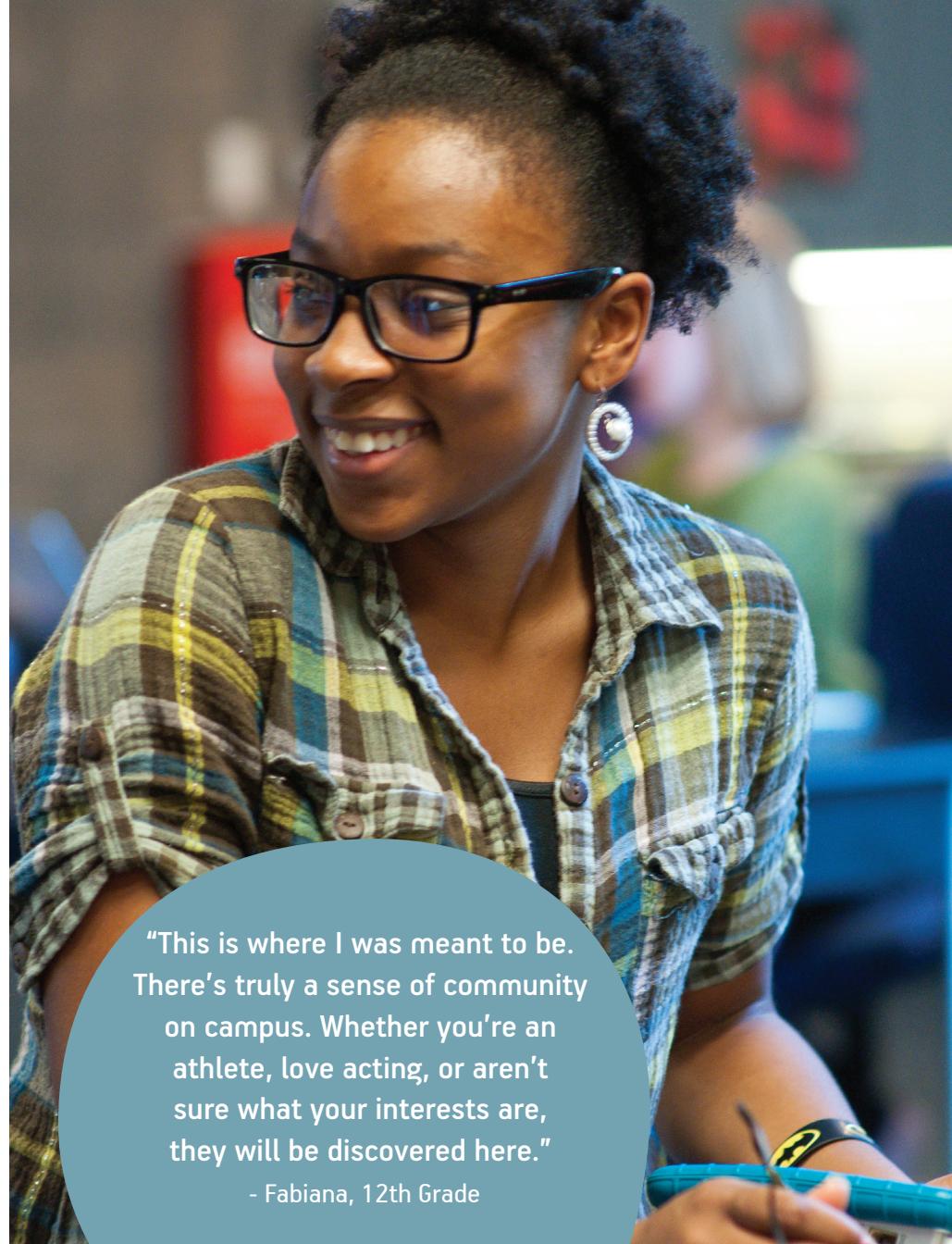
Girls' schools champion the educational needs of girls.

Single-sex programs...create an institutional and classroom climate in which female students can express themselves freely and frequently, and **develop higher order thinking skills.**

Dr. Rosemary C. Salomone, St. John's University, "Public Single-Sex Schools: What Oprah Knew"

Nearly **80%** of girls' school students report most of their classes challenge them to **achieve their full academic potential** compared to **72.3%** of girls at coed independent and **44.3%** at coed public schools.

Dr. Richard A. Holmgren, Allegheny College, "Steeped in Learning: The Student Experience at All-Girls Schools"



"This is where I was meant to be. There's truly a sense of community on campus. Whether you're an athlete, love acting, or aren't sure what your interests are, they will be discovered here."

- Fabiana, 12th Grade



“Here you can be who you are.
You can say what you think and feel,
and that’s what prepares
you for the real world.”

- Alex, 11th grade

BURSTING THE “GIRL IN THE BUBBLE” MYTH



Some parents—and educators—think all-girls schools create a falsely safe space, removing a girl from the influences of the opposite sex. This unrealistic environment, they contend, may render her ill-prepared for coed life.

We disagree. Her world will continue to include boys and men—in extracurricular activities, at home, and on weekends, evenings, and holidays. **Finding her voice**, collaborating on projects, and excelling in academics will prepare her for life.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS...

Dedicated to How Girls Learn

Girls' schools capitalize on girls' unique learning styles.

To be successful, students need more than just a feeling of support. That support must translate into actions geared toward **student success**. Nearly **96%** of girls' school students report receiving more frequent feedback on their assignments and other course work than girls at coed schools.

Dr. Richard A. Holmgren, Allegheny College, "Steeped in Learning: The Student Experience at All-Girls Schools"

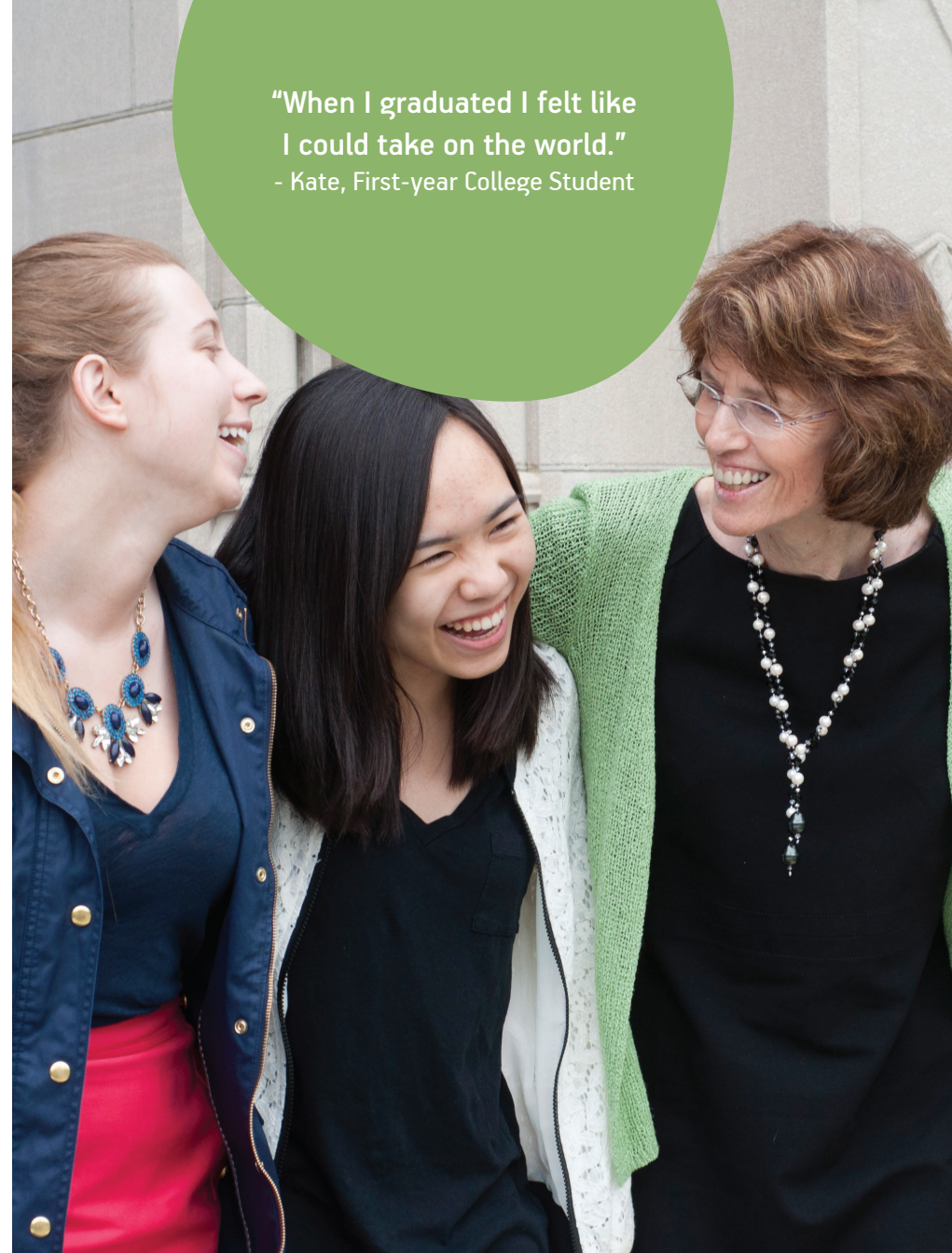
More **positive academic and behavioral interactions** [were observed] between teachers and students in the single-sex schools than in comparison to coed schools.

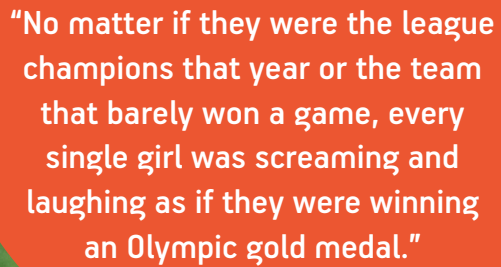
U.S. Department of Education, "Early Implementation of Public Single-Sex Schools: Perceptions and Characteristics"

All-girl environments with girl-only peers helped **build community** and increased girls' self-reported amount of learning.

Dr. Linda Sax, UCLA, "Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College"

"When I graduated I felt like I could take on the world."
- Kate, First-year College Student





“No matter if they were the league champions that year or the team that barely won a game, every single girl was screaming and laughing as if they were winning an Olympic gold medal.”

- Megan, 9th Grade



THE POWER OF PEERS

In an all-girls school, a girl **can comprehend her value** and her capabilities in ways that have nothing to do with how she looks. She can be free to experiment and explore, trying out new things and trying on new roles. She can **follow her ambitions** without wasting a second thought or a backward glance on how her male counterparts might perceive her.

By subtracting boys, an all-girls education adds opportunities. At a girls' school, a girl occupies every role: every part in the play, every seat on the student government, every position on every team. Not only does she have a wealth of avenues for **self-exploration** and development, she has a wealth of peer role models.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS...

Develops Leadership Skills

Girls' schools empower students to become bold leaders.

Programs at girls' schools focus on the development of teamwork over other qualities of leadership, while the qualities of **confidence, compassion, and resilience** also ranked prominently.

Dr. Nicole Archard, Kincoppal-Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart, "Student Leadership Development in Australian and New Zealand Secondary Girls' Schools: A Staff Perspective"

93% of girls' school grads say they were offered greater **leadership opportunities** than peers at coed schools and **80%** have held **leadership positions** since graduating from high school.

Goodman Research Group, "The Girls' School Experience: A Survey of Young Alumnae of Single-Sex Schools"



"Sometimes I get this wild feeling I could do almost anything I set my mind to. Maybe because at my school, girls do everything."
- Chase, 4th Grade



"The confidence your school gives you and the atmosphere of being with all girls is amazing because they support you and challenge you."

- Alanna, 10th Grade

GIRLS' SCHOOL GRADS HAVE AN EDGE



Girls' schools create a culture of achievement in which academic progress is of great importance, and the discovery and development of a girls' individual potential is paramount. **Time in the classroom is spent learning.**

In an all-girls atmosphere, classroom dynamics shift. Alumnae often report they could not "hide" in their school. Without the distraction of boys, girls have a greater ability to focus on their work supported by teachers dedicated to how they learn.

When you combine strong female mentors and positive role models, **reduced gender stereotyping** in the curriculum and classroom, and abundant learning opportunities, girls thrive.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS...

Higher Aspirations

Girls' school students strive for greatness.

Girls at all levels of achievement in the single-sex schools receive a...benefit from the single-sex school environment in terms of **heightened career aspirations**—an effect unprecedented in any other portion of our study.

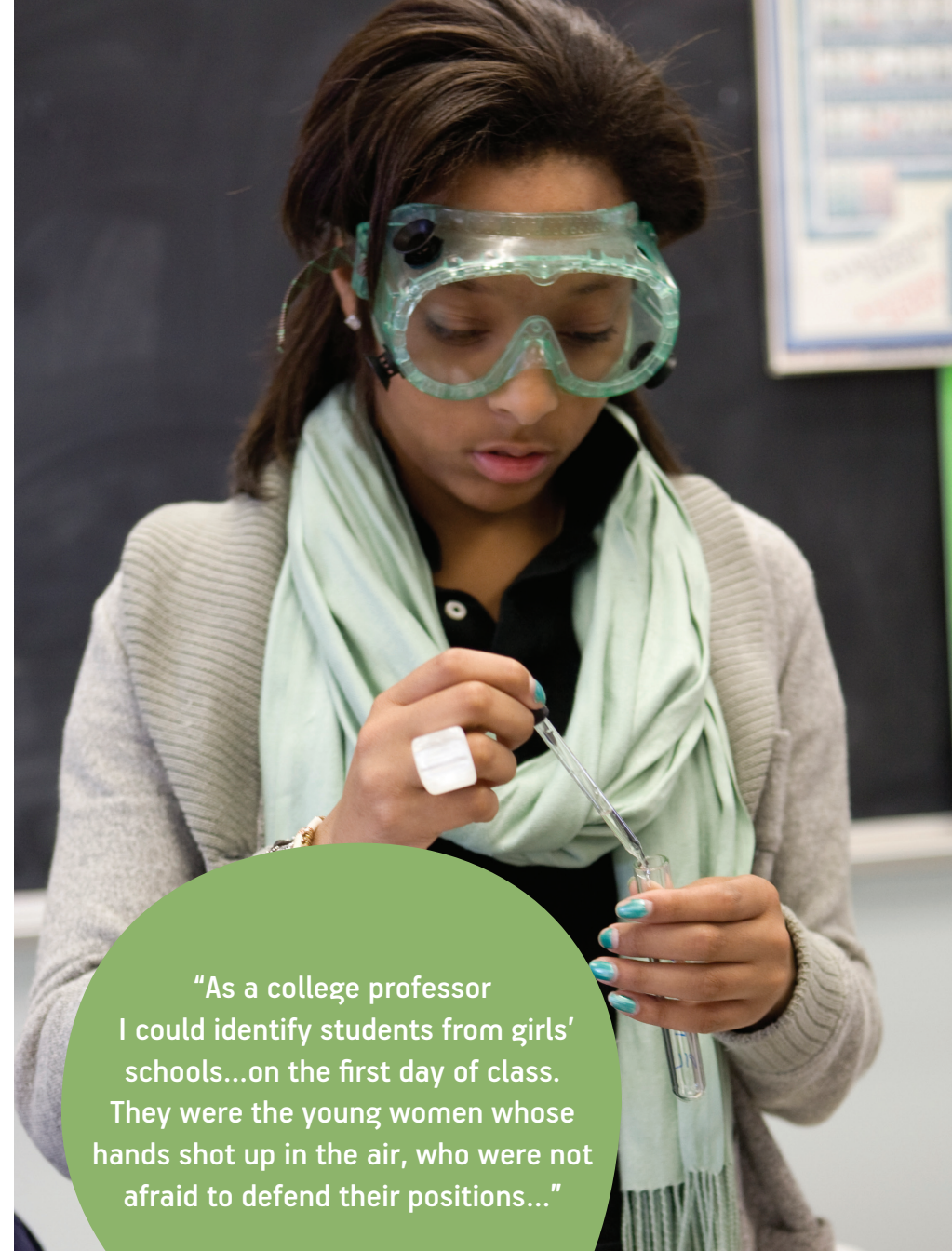
Dr. Cary M. Watson, Stanford University, "Sex Roles: A Journal of Research"

Students at all-girls schools have higher aspirations and **greater motivation** than their female peers at coed independent and public schools. **98.7%** of students at all-girls schools expect to earn a four-year degree. **More than 2/3** expect to earn a graduate or professional degree.

Dr. Richard A. Holmgren, Allegheny College, "Steeped in Learning: The Student Experience at All-Girls Schools"

Compared to coed peers, girls' school grads are **3 times more likely** to consider engineering careers.

Dr. Linda Sax, UCLA, "Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College"



"As a college professor I could identify students from girls' schools...on the first day of class. They were the young women whose hands shot up in the air, who were not afraid to defend their positions..."

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS...

Academic Achievement

Girls' schools create a culture of achievement.

The **robust learning environment** encountered by students at all-girls schools is highlighted by a recent survey of high school students. The girls' responses provide unequivocal support for the value of an all-girls educational environment.

Dr. Richard A. Holmgren, Allegheny College, "Steeped in Learning: The Student Experience at All-Girls Schools"

Nearly **50%** of all women graduating from girls' schools rate their **public speaking ability** as high, **compared to 38%** from coed schools.

Over **64%** of girls' school graduates assess their **writing ability** as high, **compared to 58%** from coed schools.

More than **80%** of girls' school grads consider their **academic performance** highly successful **compared to 75%** of women from coed schools.

A majority of girls' school grads report **higher self-confidence** over their coed peers.

Dr. Linda Sax, UCLA, "Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College"

In the end,
girls' schools should
not be judged by the
absence of boys, but
rather by the presence—
the self-assurance,
poise, and derring do—
of the girls themselves.

National Coalition of Girls' Schools



www.ncgs.org

© 2016 National Coalition of Girls' Schools

Use with permission only