Powerful Merger: Our Coalition Continues to Grow

We're thrilled to share the news that the 185 member schools of the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA) will officially join with the International Coalition of Girls' Schools. The merger will be complete in January 2024. This effort will unite more than 550 girls' schools across 21 countries, representing more than 350,000 students.

In a joint statement, AGSA Executive Officer Loren Bridge and the Coalition's Global Executive Director Megan Murphy said the significant synergies of a shared sense of identity, purpose, and potential will set and deliver an ambitious agenda for girls' schools.

“As our member schools educate girls to be the leaders of a more inclusive and sustainable world, our work must be more global in scope, providing greater opportunities for girls’ schools around the world to connect, convene and collaborate,” they said. “Our common vision is to elevate women’s leadership worldwide by empowering and educating girls to be ethical, globally minded changemakers.”

With this merger, the International Coalition of Girls' Schools will be able to deliver the best of both worlds, offering global knowledge-sharing and connections with the opportunity for inspired innovation, coordinated efficiencies, and regional programming and responsiveness. Visit agsa.org.au to learn more.

Exciting Times Ahead for ICGS

by Danielle Heard, President of the ICGS Governing Board and Head of Nashoba Brooks School

“All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change.”

Dr. Ruha Benjamin kicked off the Educating Girls Symposium at The Nightingale-Bamford School with these notably fitting words from Octavia Butler, grounding us in this enduring truth and in the work we do together to advance girls’ schools. As I listened to Dr. Benjamin and reflected on the words of Octavia Butler, I was transported back in time to a graduate school class on school reform, in which my professor stated provocatively, “Change is loss.” As a wide-eyed young teacher filled with optimism, I quickly responded with conviction, “Change is opportunity.”

By the end of the course, I learned to accept that these two truths can, and do, coexist. Now much older—but no less optimistic—I find the catalytic intersection of the two to be most compelling: “Change is growth.”
Today, with the news of our exciting partnership with the 185 members of the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia, my belief in this statement is strengthened exponentially. It's an important time to be part of ICGS.

Nadira Hira to Keynote 2023 ICGS Conference

Award-winning writer Nadira A. Hira is known for her distinctive style, both sharp and uniquely empathetic. She's appeared on the likes of NPR, HBO, CNN, and MSNBC. She's captivated audiences at Google, Disney, Comic-Con International, the UN's Global Festival of Action, and marquee events around the world.

And she's relished examining contemporary culture from all angles in many a print outlet, among them Essence, Smithsonian, MTV News, and Fortune, where she did some of her favorite journalism as a staff writer profiling such singular subjects as Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, the rollicking ancient art trade, and 20-somethings in the 21st century.

She joins Dr. Carol Gilligan—an author, educator, and expert on girls' development—and Manoush Zomorodi, host of NPR's TED Radio Hour, as a Keynote Speaker at the 2023 ICGS Conference, to be held June 26-28, in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

This conference is a perfect opportunity to gain inspiration, and to learn from and network with girls' school colleagues from around the world. Have team members who are new to your school community? Bring them along to learn about the many unique and transformational benefits of girls' schools. Group discounts are available, and Early Bird pricing is offered through May 1. Visit the links below to learn more and register today!

Celebrating the Power of Girls and Girls' Schools

We are delighted to host the first cross-sector professional development event for girls' schools in the United Kingdom on 29 September at Benenden School. This will be a unique occasion for school leaders and teachers to come together from both state and independent schools to address the theme of Celebrating the Power of Girls and Girls' Schools.

Participants will hear from global experts in areas such as mental health and pastoral care, teaching and learning, leadership, and more. They will also learn from and with teaching colleagues representing a wide range of schools. This Educating Girls Symposium is part of a two-day event that
Join the ICGS Team as a Research Intern

ICGS is currently seeking to fill a part-time (8-10 hours/week), remote position for a Research Intern to support the work of the Coalition. Geared toward graduates of girls' schools, the position's focus areas include: research library management, member research requests, support of the Global Action Research Collaborative on Girls' Education, event support, and data compilation. This role is ideal for someone interested in the nonprofit, research, and/or education sectors. We invite you to share the full position description with your university and graduate school-level alums and encourage candidates with an interest in advancing women's leadership worldwide through girls' education to apply.

position description

Listen to and Share Our Latest Podcast: Girls Who Lead

NOW STREAMING: Women are simply not making the progress into management roles that one might expect. The most recent Gender Equality Snapshot, produced by the United Nations, noted that as of 2020 women held less than 1 in 3 management positions around the globe; and a somewhat depressing 28% of women are leading others. What is holding them back? This episode of On Educating Girls puts a spotlight on an international leadership program for girls in Australia that, for 25 years, has been committed to doing its part to improve that leadership pipeline, working to provide aspiring teen leaders with a leadership toolkit that will set them up for success in their school roles and well beyond. These young women come together in a
transformational sisterhood to lean into their vulnerability and emerge with renewed confidence in wearing the mantle of leadership. Join host Trudy Hall as she learns about the program and its powerful outcomes from Loren Bridge, Executive Officer of Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia, and two former participants in the Student Leadership Conference, Ashleigh DeSilva and Eloise Hall, both of whom are now inspiring leaders in their own right. As you hear about the authenticity and confidence this program instills, think about where your daughter is getting this sort of inspiration to act on her own leadership dream.

Scholarship for ICGS Educators

The CalWest Educators Lee Miller Scholarship is an annual award presented to two members of the ICGS community in memory and honor of CalWest Founder Lee Miller, established by her family and friends at CalWest Educators Placement.

The CalWest Educators Lee Miller Scholarship will be awarded annually to educators in ICGS member schools in the form of a scholarship grant to attend the ICGS Conference. Applications are now being accepted through April 7.

Items of Interest

Have an item to contribute? Please send an email to kosborne@girlsschools.org.

It's Still Hard for Women in Science
Harvard Magazine

We don't need discount vouchers for International Women's Day. We need equal rights.
The Guardian

Throughout History, Women Have Forged a New Type of Leadership
Ms. Magazine

Breaking the bias: How to deliver gender equity in conservation
Nature

Education for all, regardless of gender, is critical for sustainable development
The Times of India

Women in Work Index 2023 - Closing the gender pay gap for good: A focus on the motherhood penalty
PwC UK

Join Us for an Upcoming Event

Plan your professional development participation using the Events Calendar on the ICGS website! With this feature, you can easily search for ICGS educational and networking opportunities taking place online or in person.

Member schools are invited to Add Your Own Events to this calendar as well.