

Subject Line: 8 women receive Girls Inc. of Chicago's inaugural SheShines Award

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Girls Inc. of Chicago's newly created SheShines leadership recognition program highlights female leaders making a difference in the lives of Chicago girls. The 2019-2020 SheShines Honorees include rising stars across various industries - politics, education, architecture, music, and more - all of whom are inspiring girls to break down barriers and pursue their dreams.

The inaugural 2019-2020 SheShines Honorees include the following women:

Angela Esposito

Senior Manager of Education and Experience
Chicago Architecture Center

Karen Foley

President and CEO
Juvenile Protective Association

Susan Sadlowski Garza

Aldерwoman (10th Ward)
City of Chicago

Veronica Johnson

Co-Pastor
Hyde Park Union Church

Phaedra Leslie

Director of Business Relations and Economic Development
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

Leslie L. McKinney

Director
Black Women in Science and Engineering

Whitney Morrison

Soprano Performer
Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center

Lindrea Reynolds

Founder
Next Level Brand Behavior

According to Girls Inc. of Chicago CEO Arshele Stevens, SheShines, which underscores the notion that representation matters, was inspired by the adage "if you can see it, you can be it". The award, Stevens said, "shines a bright light on Chicago's brightest up-and-coming

female leaders who are making a difference in our city.” Stevens further explained that honorees are changemakers whose stories of creating and opening doors of opportunity for girls have previously been untold.

SheShines Honorees will be recognized at a panel event during Women’s History Month on March 31, 2020 starting at 8:30 a.m.

The local affiliate of the national Girls Inc. nonprofit organization, Girls Inc. of Chicago was established in 2017. The organization provides school-based and out-of-school programming to more than 600 elementary and high school girls across Chicago. The organization’s initiatives, Firefighter for a Day, Take Our Daughters to Congress Day, #StrongSmartBold Summer Camp, Bold Girls Society, and more inspire Chicago girls to become strong, smart, and bold.

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For more information or to attend the SheShines event, please contact Lindsay Bartlett at lindsayb@girlsincofchicago.org and 312-761-3847.