

Oakland Institution Teaches Entrepreneurship to High School Girls



Oakland, California Apr 19, 2022 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Oakland Natives Give Back is a cornerstone in the Oakland community. As philanthropy, they're well known for their Back To School Rally, where they hand out backpacks, shoes, and school supplies. They have many other school programs that battle chronic absenteeism, but their newest program is making a splash, the Girls Equity Movement.

Girls Equity Movement or GEMs as they call it provides an empowering fifteen-month fellowship and mentorship program for high school girls who want to become entrepreneurs. They explain that their vision is that 100% of Certified GEMs graduate high school feeling self-assured and college-bound, so they can become the girl bosses they were born to be.

They have specific program tiers for different age groups and ambitions:

- Refined GEMs is a virtual learning-intensive program for 9-12 grade girls that focuses on STEAMIE (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, Invention, and Entrepreneurship). Over 15 months, GEMs participate in workshops and complete exercises that promote real-world, experiential learning. The girls in the cohort become Certified GEMs at completion.
- GEMs Fellowship is geared toward rising juniors (11th graders). Certified GEMs who wish to become fellows are selected through an application process. This is a peer-to-peer training path where fellows apply what they learned while they were GEMs so they can facilitate training for the cohorts that follow. Fellows have an opportunity to connect with advisors on a deeper level by receiving one-on-one time, mentorship, guidance, and support.
- She's So C-Suite is a summer rotation for rising seniors (12th graders). During the summer, GEMs rotate between start-ups for week-long stints. After the summer sessions end, the GEMs are placed at one of the major corporations or start-ups in their rotation. This opportunity combines the power of internship, mentorship, and business shadowing with influential executive women in their local communities.

So far, the results can't be argued. 100% of seniors in GEMs graduated from high school in an area where the graduation rate is 68%. 100% of seniors in GEMs applied to college and 100% of seniors had an improved test score on the SAT. With outcomes like that, it's not surprising that the program is attracting parents and girls from all over the country.

They announced in March that they are currently open for enrollment and taking applications from ambitious high school girls. We'll all be watching for what young leaders Oakland produces next.

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