

Conference Aims To Empower, Educate Teenage Girls



MENTORING. Sylvia Scott, left, founder of Girl's CEO Connection, speaks to actress Finola Hughes, who was a keynote speaker at a past conference. —Photo courtesy of Sylvia Scott ap
By Shereen Oca, August 5, 2009
Staff Writer | 0 comments

By hosting a leadership and empowerment conference geared toward teenage girls, Sylvia Scott said she hopes to equip them with the skills needed to develop and create their own businesses.

Scott, president and founder of Girl's CEO (Creating Enterprising Organizations) Connection, began organizing these forums in 2006, focusing on introducing teenagers to such concepts as entrepreneurship, financial literacy and more. She will host the Realizing A Vision Conference for girls in ninth through 12th grades this Saturday at Wilson High School.

"I just feel like with high school girls, it's a good time," Scott said. "They are deciding what to do. They are very creative. It can give them a strong sense of self worth. They can help their families out with financial issues, and it helps them when they are going to college."

While many young men are encouraged to pursue their own businesses in high school, many young women are not, she said. That's where Girl's CEO Connection steps in. "We're giving girls more tools to grow, to think about doing a business and making it better, tools on how to negotiate as a young woman, how to network, how to find the right advisors and mentors," she continued. "These are basic things you don't learn in school, and topics college girls might learn."

According to Scott, Realizing a Vision serves a fundamental role in the future she envisions for her company, the Girl's CEO Connection. "My vision is that we start a revolution of young teenage girls as entrepreneurs to fulfill their creativity and motivate minds and chart a course of purpose for them," she said.

At the conference, where approximately 150 attendees are expected, a host of prominent businesswomen and professionals are slated to give speeches and conduct workshops, including Rachel Doyle, founder of GlamourGals Foundation, Inc., Susan Johnson, owner of Susan's Healthy Gourmet, and Lori Lofstrom, 2009-10 chairman of the board for the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and managing shareholder of law firm Holmes Lofstrom.

Lofstrom will lead a discussion about protecting intellectual property on Saturday, covering the legal aspects needed to trademark or copyright creative works and designs.

"I think the earlier you can get to them the better," Lofstrom said. "If you can present and facilitate information that will help to find them mentors and maybe get them inspired and give them some information they can use so they are not taken advantage of, I think those are absolutely wonderful goals of the conference."

The Realizing a Vision Conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Wilson High School. Entrance to the event will be located off East 10th Street and Park Avenue. Cost is \$15 for high school students, \$25 for college students and \$45 for adults. The online registration deadline is tomorrow (Friday) at www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=GCC.

Those who wish to attend can also pay by check at the door on the day of the event. For more information about the conference, call (949) 645-4879.