

Gender Balance Through Non-Formal Education on International Women's Day

Young People are Making it Happen
#AwardUSA #WORLDREADY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA, March 7, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On March 8th, International Women's Day, the largest international youth achievement program, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, known locally as [The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA](#), is calling attention to the significant role non-formal education is playing in achieving the gender balance that is so important for success in the future.

International Women's Day comes after the worldwide launch of the Award's [#WORLDREADY](#) campaign. More than 10,000 young people from 150+ countries and territories were asked to give their perspective on today's world – and 75 per cent of young women surveyed believe that being ready for the world takes more than classroom learning.



All over the world Award participants are excelling outside of their classroom and in the United States we see young women thinking about their role in the future. In a worldwide survey conducted by the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award at the launch of [#WORLDREADY](#), all of the young American women who took part feel confident standing up for what they believe in and confident speaking out against something they believe is wrong.

“

I don't think I could have taken this crazy adventure alone, if it wasn't for The Award challenging me to do so!”

Rosie W.

“The Award has helped me connect with people across the world. For my Gold Residential Project, I ventured out on

my own from Ohio to Cyprus where I mentored other Award Holders. They came from England, Palestine, South Africa, Egypt, India, Bulgaria, Lebanon, and Kuwait.

Regardless of where we came from, we all seemingly forgot about our differences, and genuinely enjoyed being friends with one another. In particular, the students I helped doing their Adventurous Journey persevered through cultural, language, gender, and personality differences in order to achieve their goals.

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- Rosie Westerback

Elizabeth Higgins-Beard, CEO of Award USA, says, "Bringing the Award to the US has allowed hundreds of young American women to challenge themselves in new ways and discover they are capable of so much more than they ever realized by getting involved in the Award. #WORLDREADY aims to celebrate these inspirational young people and the ways in which they are contributing to life in the United States. We hope that every young American has an opportunity to get involved and by doing so, we are all that much closer to gender balance."



Rosie Westerback

These bright and empowered young women are completing the Award and by so doing are shaping the future of the United States. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global, non-formal education framework which challenges young people to develop new skills, get physically active, learn about teamwork and leadership through adventurous journey and volunteer within their community. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA encourages young women to step outside their comfort zones and in doing so, develop universal skills – such as resilience, confidence and adaptability – to help ensure that not only are they ready for the world but that the world is a better place for it.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women - while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender balance. The race is on for the gender-balanced boardroom, a gender-balanced government, gender-balanced media coverage, a gender-balance of employees, more gender-balance in wealth, and even gender-balanced sports coverage. More information is available [here](#).

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA is proud that more and more American young people are #WORLDREADY and will continue to do their part to achieve the balance that International Women's Day is calling for. Award USA CEO Elizabeth Higgins-Beard available to speak about the remarkable accomplishments of young women in the United States through their work with the Award.

For more information please visit: <http://www.usaward.org> or <http://www.worldready.org>

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