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**ALAMEDA** – From July 23 - 25, Girls Inc. of the Island City will join high school girls from across the United States and Canada for the first Girls Inc. Girls InCharge Summit in Indianapolis, sponsored by Sam's Club Giving Program.

The three-day program will be held on the campus of Butler University and will give 52 girls the opportunity to learn and practice business skills, meet women entrepreneurs, discuss options for their futures, and gain insight into the corporate world and business ownership. Girls will take part in communications and presentation workshops, attend networking events, and learn from women business owners. The college campus setting will expose many to higher education as a real possibility for their lives.

Four girls from Girls Inc. of the Island City are participating: Allison Young, 16, Meriam Salem, 17, Winnie Zhou, 15, and Jadah Waqia, 17. They qualified for the Girls InCharge summit by completing leadership and entrepreneurship programming and committing to facilitating workshops with middle school girls in their own communities. Girls hail from local Girls Inc. organizations in Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Ontario, Tennessee, and Texas.

"This incredible experience gives our girls an invaluable opportunity to meet women leaders, gain skills they'll use in college and when entering the workforce, and share this knowledge with even more girls upon their return," said Judy Vredenburg, President and CEO of Girls Inc. "We are thrilled to partner with the Sam's Club Giving Program in helping girls take critical steps to achieving economic independence and successful futures."

"Congratulations to the local young women nominated to attend the Girls InCharge Summit. We are confident they are the entrepreneurs and business leaders of tomorrow," said Susan Koehler, Senior Manager, Community Involvement for Sam's Club. "Sam's Club is pleased to provide the funds to launch the summit and appreciates the work of Girls Inc. around the country and on this program."

"The four girls participating in the Girls InCharge Summit from Alameda's high schools are getting an opportunity of a life-time," said Christine Chilcott, Director of Girls Inc. of the Island City's Program Services. "With help from their peers and women business leaders from across the Nation, these girls will be able to identify and explore their personal strengths; learn and apply skills to become a successful leader, and see new and exciting options for their future, including entrepreneurship."

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*Girls Inc. of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Inc. of the Island City has provided the only program in Alameda designed specifically for girls. Our programs "fill in the gap" on issues that parents and schools do not always have the time or resources to cover. We provide more than 25,000*

*hours of programming each year to girls ages 6 to 18. At Girls Inc. of the Island City, girls and teens are challenged to explore science, math and computers, sports and health, friendships and conflict resolution, as well as to examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.*

*We also offer a licensed childcare service called Alameda Island Kids for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Alameda Island Kids, call (510) 521-1743 ext. 202 or visit our website at [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).*

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