

As parents work from home amid COVID-19, Girls With Impact waives tuition with its distance learning relief effort to ease burdens



Stamford, CT, March 23, 2020 – As more schools close and parents work from home amid COVID-19, kids are in need of educational alternatives.

“Parents are struggling to find alternatives and fill the gap so that they can work effectively from home,” says Jennifer Openshaw, CEO of the non-profit, [Girls With Impact](#).

That’s why the non-profit organization is waiving its \$395 tuition for its signature 10-week Academy this Spring. Registrations are currently being taken for the classes starting April 13.

“Families are taking a financial hit in so many ways,” says Openshaw. “One of the beauties of operating our program live, online from day-one is that we’ve never been in emergency mode. It allows us to easily adjust and meet the demands of families.”

The Academy, designed with Harvard experts, enables students to take live classes from the comfort of home. Courses run for 10 weeks accompanied by an online learning platform where girls access the curriculum activities. Students select the day and time of their weekly classes.

Among the enhancements Girls With Impact is making to help during the virus’ spread is adding more classes to accommodate the growth in students and moving its graduation

The Academy, offered year-round each quarter is led by trained instructors. It was designed with experts from Harvard Business School.

Openshaw said the college-level program is valued at about \$2,000 given the college and career advantage it's already demonstrated. Graduates have won scholarships as high as \$200,000. Low-income girls are underwritten thanks to funding from Girls With Impact's corporate partners, such as Eversource Energy, XPO, the Charles Schwab Foundation, and Becton Dickenson.

The 10-week program includes weekly coach-led classes, start-up kit, training materials, and graduation with certificate. The fee waiver will apply for the Spring cohort only.

In addition to learning soft and hard skills in business, girls graduate with a business plan, venture prototype and venture pitch.

"We're proven that our 'Impact-Driven Entrepreneurship' training from the bedroom can give girls from all backgrounds a tremendous college and career advantage," said Openshaw.

The program tracks 25 outcomes including:

- **Confidence:** 81% of graduates view themselves as leaders vs 47% pre-program
- **Initiative:** 91% are more confident raising their hand vs 44% pre-program
- **Public speaking:** 91% more confident vs 44% pre-program
- **Cash management:** 75% are better equipped to manage cash flow
- **College ready:** 93% feel more college-ready

"If we're lucky, by the time these girls graduate from our Spring program, the virus will be a thing of the past," added Openshaw.

Girls With Impact is on a mission to train 10,000 young women to "lead from the top."

To take advantage, girls should register [here](#) (deadline April 4).

- [Why Girls With Impact: I feel powerful](#) (video of 3 grads)

*****Attention Employers & HR Leaders*****

Do you want to help your employees during this unprecedented health pandemic? The COVID-19 Distance Learning Relief is an effort by Girls With Impact to ease the burden on working families. Contact us at ops@girlswithimpact.org to officially list your company with us. We welcome donations which are tax-deductible. Contact ellen.manger@girlswithimpact.com for more information.

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[Jennifer Openshaw](#) was CEO of Women's Financial Network and is now CEO of the non-profit [Girls With Impact](#), a modern business and innovation academy for young women. Formerly with the California State Treasurer's Office, she later became CEO of Women's Financial Network, where she was named among the "25 rising stars" in Silicon Valley and Partner and Chief Marketing Officer of Mercer's *When Women Thrive* research platform. She's appeared on Oprah, GMA, CNBC's Power Lunch and many other programs, and was appointed by the California governor to the Commission on Government Efficiency. The author of three books and former Money Expert for KCBS-TV in Los Angeles and ABC Radio, she has been a columnist for [Dow Jones MarketWatch](#) and a [LinkedIn Influencer](#).

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