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THE NATIONAL COALITION OF GIRLS’ SCHOOLS ENTERS 2022 READY TO EMBRACE A NEW NAME, NEW COLLABORATIONS, AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES WITH OPTIMISM AND ENERGY
The Coalition will host the Global Forum on Girls’ Education® III in Boston in June; Finalize and pursue partnerships and merger opportunities with other organizations throughout the year

January 2022—The National Coalition of Girls’ Schools, established in the United States in 1991 by the merger of the Coalition of Girls’ Boarding Schools and the Coalition of Girls’ Day Schools, has vastly expanded its reach in the last 30 years. What began as a coalition of 56 member schools in the United States has now grown to include more than 300 girls’ schools around the world. Nearly 30 percent of member institutions are located outside the U.S., in Afghanistan, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Colombia, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

“Our organization’s name no longer adequately captures who we are and what we do,” says Executive Director Megan Murphy. “With that in mind, the NCGS Board of Trustees voted in October 2021 to reposition as the International Coalition of Girls’ Schools, and we are now engaged in the right-naming process. This exciting change allows us to be a more inclusive organization, as our name more accurately represents our programming and our membership.”

As the Coalition’s membership has grown and become more diverse, its reach, influence and scope have expanded too. All professional development, research, advocacy, and networking programs are developed through a kaleidoscopic lens that considers the many types and characteristics of the girls’ schools within the Coalition’s global network. While the Coalition is focused more intently than ever on providing greater global value, it is equally focused on ensuring regional excellence and relevance across its broad network of girls’ schools. For the past several years, strategic collaborations have been underway with several regional and national girls’ school organizations to explore and plan global affiliations and mergers with ICGS. Among these is the U.K.-based Association of State Girls’ Schools, which will officially become part of the ICGS Coalition through an innovative merger currently in process.

Faculty, staff, and administrators from member girls’ schools will gather at the ICGS Global Forum on Girls’ Education® III, which will convene virtually and in person in Boston, Mass., June 27-29, 2022. The program will bring together thought leaders to capitalize on the momentum toward gender equality sparked through social justice and political movements that have been reignited around the world in recent years. The International Coalition of Girls’ Schools is poised to mobilize tens of thousands of
educators in member schools in the important work of educating and empowering girls to become ethical, globally minded leaders. The Global Forum on Girls’ Education® III will focus on creating pathways for girls as global citizens, entrepreneurs and innovators, social activists, political leaders, artists, performers, and creators, environmental champions, scientists, inclusive allies, and happy, healthy individuals. The conference will also look at ways girls’ schools are driving the global conversation about girls’ education and development.

“Our students have had the unique opportunity to witness global changemaking happening in real time on an unparalleled scale,” says Murphy. “What is most inspiring is that so much of the change and progress has been directed by female activists. At no other time has there been among girls and young women such a deep sense of shared purpose, potential, and power.”

The Global Forum on Girls’ Education® III will include a combination of virtual and in-person programming, hosted at Boston Park Plaza in Boston, Mass. The forum will feature a celebration of the Coalition’s repositioning as ICGS, along with keynote addresses from Shaban Basij-Rasikh and Lisa Damour. Basij-Rasikh is president the School of Leadership of Afghanistan (SOLA), which she founded as a teenager. She is also a contributor to the Global Opinions section of The Washington Post, and she has been named one of CNN International’s Leading Women and National Geographic’s Emerging Explorers. Damour is a psychologist an expert on girls’ development. She directs the Center for Research on Girls at Laurel School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She also is a best-selling author, New York Times columnist, podcaster, and regular contributor to CBS News.

Additional programming at the Global Forum will include peer-led sessions, hands-on ideation sessions, networking, and focused workshops. Attendees also will hear presentations and findings from the teacher-researcher fellows of the Global Action Research Collaborative, an ICGS initiative. The Global Action Research Collaborative is the world’s first action research program that engages girls’ school educators from around the world in collaborative, disciplined, and sustained action research.

Registration for the Global Forum on Girls’ Education® III is now open. The program is affordably priced for both in-person and virtual options, so that all those who are interested may participate. “We are eager to take what we have learned during the pandemic and, through virtual technology, connect thousands of educators online with those who can attend in person, thereby creating in real time a truly global community of women and men committed to empowering girls and young women to lead lives of purpose,” Murphy says. “The time for girls—and girls’ schools—is now.”

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF GIRLS’ SCHOOLS:

**Purpose:** The International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) is to be the leading advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and organizations dedicated to educating and empowering girls. **Vision:** We are united in elevating women’s leadership worldwide by educating and empowering our students to be ethical, globally minded changemakers. **Principles:** ICGS engages the power of many voices to strengthen our schools, communities, and world; uplifts learning communities committed to diversity, equity, justice, and belonging; challenges individuals to imagine and explore new possibilities; inspires the next generation of global citizens to lead with courage, competence, and empathy; and prepares girls for lives of commitment, confidence, contribution, and fulfillment.