



## Shine The Light Global Initiative Western High School

**Vision:** to stimulate awareness and knowledge of world cultures and empower students to become leaders, worldly visionaries, and critical thinkers as their achievements “Shine The Light” on Western’s legacy of inspiring women since 1844.

### **About Western High School**

- Founded November 1, 1844,
- Pioneer in women's public education,
- College-preparatory high school serving young women in the Baltimore, Maryland area,
- National Blue Ribbon School,
- Motto: “Lucem accepimus, lucem demus” (“We have received light, let us give light”),
- School Mascot: The Dove symbolizing the Western lady, the Dove stands above the crowd by being dignified, poised, and beautiful,
- School colors: Red and Black.

### **Shine The Light Global Initiatives includes:**

#### **Sister School Global Initiative**

The Sister School Global Initiative (SSGI) is a comprehensive cultural awareness program for high school girls designed to support and expand students’ path for personal, academic, professional, and leadership growth as they participate in activities that increase their understanding of diverse world cultures. Students will enjoy valuable friendships, have authentic experiences, prepare for future global leadership roles, and collaborate on projects.

- Western High School is partnered with Aje Comprehensive High School located in Lagos, Nigeria

#### **Women Who Rock Leader-to-Leader Network**

IWTT’s Women Who Rock Leader-to-Leader Network offers valuable connections by linking Western students to a network of women leaders that care about the personal, academic, and professional development of girls. They will support the leadership development of students by engaging their expertise to connect with students as role models and open opportunities through their international networks.

- Ms. Rokeya Jones, Microsoft was a speaker to Westerns senior computer science class

#### **The Power of Storytelling: Empowering Girls through Voicing Our Stories**

A person’s story can inspire and empower individuals to pursue their dreams, making a significant impact on their lives. Stories can create a ripple effect of positivity and growth. Brenda D. Griffin (aka) Queen Storyteller is the storyteller advisor to the

International Women's Think Tank. Queen Storyteller is a member of the award winning Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia, Inc, and the National Association of Black Storytellers. She currently serves as Program/Director for Kuumba's Historical Portraits and is on the Board of Directors.



Also (aka) The Old Storyteller, Helen Sims, CEO of the Reverend George Lee and Fannie Lou Hammer Civil Rights Museum, Belzoni, Mississippi.

### **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030**

Shine The Light Global Initiative supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 5 on gender equality.

Dr. Brenda Morant is an alumna of Western High School and is the Founder of the International Women's Think Tank (IWTT). She serves on the board of Western's High School Foundation and brought IWTT's principles of global understanding and international contacts to her work on the WHSF Board. Connecting HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana, President, African Women Health Project International to the Board for a series of conversations that resulted in the partnership between Western High School and Aje Comprehensive High School.

According to HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana, "We believe individual relationships, sharing cross-cultural experiences and perspectives, are the key to personal maturity and women's professional ascension...and as importantly, to a more harmonious world." As evidence of the power of individual relationships, her longstanding friendship with Dr. Morant is the basis for the implementation and ongoing success of the Sister Schools program.

Western High School: The Difference Maker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgIxaksmzHE&feature=youtu.be>

**The Western High School Foundation is a partner to Shine The Light Global Initiative.**