

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathy Thomas

kthomas@ngcproject.org

Karen Peterson

kpeterson@ngcproject.org

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**NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE ANNOUNCES
ADDITION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Seattle, WA, October 19, 2021 – The National Girls Collaborative (NGC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Shihadah Saleem to the Board of Directors.

“We are so pleased to welcome Shay Saleem to our Board of Directors. Shay has been a long-time partner and colleague. Her passion and expertise, especially in providing youth-led opportunities will greatly inform our ongoing and future initiatives.” - Karen Peterson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer.

About Shihadah Saleem:

Shihadah “Shay” Saleem is Senior Manager of Teen Leadership and Alumni Programs at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. As a co-founder of GOALS (Greater Opportunities Advancing Leadership and Science) and manager of the long-standing Youth Leadership at the Intrepid Museum, she develops and delivers programs and workshops for diverse audiences. For over 10 years, Shay continues to provide rich STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and youth development programs and opportunities for students, parents and the community. Shay graduated with a B.A. from Alfred University, majoring in Environmental Sciences with an emphasis in natural sciences and geology. She is also a graduate of University of South Florida, College of Marine Science with her Master of Science Degree in Marine Geomorphology. While a two-time recipient of NSF’s GK-12 OCEANS program, she worked as a graduate mentor for the outreach program, Oceanography Camp for Girls and a graduate teaching assistant at an elementary and middle school of Pinellas County Florida. There Shay found her love of teaching and developing learning modules for STEM, especially in marine science. She developed and facilitated various teacher professional developments for K-12 teachers and educators. In 2008 she returned to New York City to work at the Intrepid Sea,

Air & Space Museum delivering and developing STEM and history-based programs and workshops for NYC schools, teachers, cultural institutions, and communities. With her great ability to collaborate with various individuals, organizations and companies, Shay understands the importance of collective impact, holding space for the involvement and support of Black and Brown communities, and engaging sustainable practices for the success of all youth. Shay's passion is in teaching and mentoring young women, introducing them to the myriad possibilities and opportunities in STEM careers.

About National Girls Collaborative

The National Girls Collaborative (NGC) is the overarching organization that operates numerous ventures. The central endeavor is the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) (NGCP) which is a network of organizations committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Established in 2002, the NGCP has served over 20.20 million girls and 10 million boys through over 42,500 programs committed to gender parity across 41 states in the U.S. Via [The Connector](#), the nation's largest and most prolific directory of STEAM opportunities for K-12 engagement, NGCP's tapestry of programs make their way to educators, parents, and the youth they serve. In addition, through NGCP's research, the importance of mentors in girls' career path is essential, leading to the creation of [FabFems](#), a database connecting women working in STEM careers so they can directly spark girls' interest in STEM, dispel stereotypes, and expand girls' perceptions of their STEM career options. Through its ethos of collaboration, NGCP draws the resources of corporations, academia, governments, and nonprofits alike toward the shared goal of STEM equity. Learn more about the National Girls Collaborative and its programs at [ngcproject.org](#).

Related Links:

<https://ngcproject.org>

<https://theconnector.org>

<https://fabfems.org>

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