



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nationally Recognized Nonprofit Publishes Bold Teen Voices *Teen Girls Declare Their Place at Reading of "You Are HERE: A WriteGirl Journey"*

Los Angeles, CA – Teens are overflowing with words and opinions, but are their voices ready for publication? [WriteGirl](#), a creative writing and mentoring program for teen girls, proves they are with the debut of their 12th anthology, ***You Are HERE: The WriteGirl Journey***. In honor of National Mentoring Month, WriteGirl will partner with the Los Angeles Public Library this Saturday for a book launch and public reading event.

WriteGirl was recently honored by First Lady Michelle Obama with the [National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award](#), an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts & the Humanities (PCAH) and the highest national honor awarded to exemplary after-school and out-of-school time programs from across the country.

In ***You Are HERE: The WriteGirl Journey***, 161 women and girls share their stories as they navigate their way through small moments and big adventures. In clear and unwavering voices, they tell us about where they are, where they've been and where they still hope to go. Featured girls come from more than 60 Los Angeles-area schools in some of the highest density neighborhoods in the country. The book includes a full chapter of innovative writing activities and advice for aspiring writers of any age.

Pre-launch activities will include an inspirational writing session led by **Sholeh Wolpe**, an acclaimed Iranian-American poet, literary translator, and writer. At 3pm, Sholeh will join the authors of *You Are HERE* as they take to the stage to share excerpts and stories from the anthology. All proceeds from sales of the book go directly back to WriteGirl, helping to support creative writing and mentoring for hundreds of girls.

"WriteGirl inspires girls to explore and express, in bold terms, who they are and who they're becoming. The result is a thrilling collection of prose and poetry that exemplifies a new generation of women," says Jennifer Hoppe, writer and story editor, *Nurse Jackie*, *Damages*, *Save Me, Us & Them*.

WriteGirl Book Launch of *You Are HERE: The WriteGirl Journey*

Saturday, January 11th, 2014

Creative Writing Session 2:00 p.m.

Book Launch and Reading 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Central Library – Mark Taper Auditorium
630 West 5th Street (Between Flower and Grand)
Downtown Los Angeles, California 90071

About WriteGirl

[WriteGirl](#) is a creative writing and mentoring organization in Los Angeles that helps teen girls discover and express their creative voices. WriteGirl has two main programs: the Core Mentoring Program, in which at-risk teen girls are matched with professional women writers for one-on-one mentoring, genre-specific workshops, public readings, publications and college and scholarship application assistance; and the In-Schools Program, where volunteer mentors lead weekly workshops to improve literacy and communication skills at schools in critically at-risk neighborhoods.

WriteGirl enrolls more than 350 underserved teen girls (ages 13-18) from the metropolitan Los Angeles region. In a city where the dropout rate hovers around 50 percent, WriteGirl has maintained a 12-year record of guiding 100 percent of girls in their Core Mentoring Program to not only graduate from high school but also enroll in college. WriteGirl publications have collectively won over 60 national and international book awards.

WriteGirl was honored by First Lady Michelle Obama with the [National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award](#), an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts & the Humanities and the highest national honor awarded to exemplary after-school and out-of-school time programs from across the country. The President's Committee partners with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to administer the program.



For more information, visit www.writegirl.org or call 213-253-2655.



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