



**“Education is the path to the future. I believe that education is indeed freedom. With God’s help, these girls will be the future leaders on the path to peace in South Africa and the world.”**

**– Oprah Winfrey**

### History

During a December 2000 visit with Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey pledged to build a school for girls in South Africa. On 6 December 2002, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela and then Minister of Education Professor Kader Asmal broke ground on the future site of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls - South Africa. Initially a public-private partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education, the Leadership Academy became an independent school on 20 August 2006. Through personal donations by Ms. Winfrey, The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation has contributed more than US\$40 million toward the Leadership Academy’s creation. The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation fully funds the operations of the school and its boarding facilities.

### Objective

The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls is committed to providing a rigorous yet supportive educational environment that engenders high standards of academic achievement and service leadership and provides cultural enrichment for girls who show outstanding promise, despite their social circumstances. The Leadership Academy offers a dynamic and innovative curriculum designed to develop critical, questioning minds and to prepare pupils for university study in an inspired, open and tolerant learning environment. Through this experience, the Leadership Academy aims to equip its pupils with the intellectual and social skills necessary to assume positions of leadership in South African society and beyond.

### About the Campus

The Leadership Academy is located on 21 hectares (52 acres) of land in a residential area of Henley-on-Klip, Meyerton, in the Gauteng Province (approximately 40 miles south of Johannesburg).

The 28-building campus and landscape offer a safe and nurturing educational and residential environment for girls and maintain the architectural integrity of the surrounding community. Up to 750 construction workers—approximately 80% of whom are from the greater Henley-on-Klip community—were on-site each day to build the campus. In addition, approximately 500 South African artists and artisans contributed to the aesthetics throughout the campus. The Leadership Academy has state-of-the-art classrooms, computer and science laboratories, a library, a theatre, a gymnasium, sports fields, a wellness center, modern dormitory facilities and a dining hall. Architectural and design firms Mashabane Rose Associates, Wilson & Associates, and Nagle Hartray all contributed to campus’ beauty.

### About the Curriculum

The curriculum includes math, natural science and technology; arts and culture; social, economic and management sciences; life orientation and leadership; and languages. In addition, the Academy offers an array of extracurricular activities and programs, including dance, sports and music programs to help foster teamwork and leadership skills as well as campus-wide annual programs including Arts & Culture Week, OWLAGive and Be the Change, which enrich creative and critical thinking and underscore the importance of social and global responsibility.

### About the Pupils

For consideration, applicant pupils need to be girls of the right age and education level to enter grade 7 and demonstrate both academic and leadership potential, with a total household income of no more than R5000 per month. Presently approximately 300 pupils in grades 7 through 10, who represent all nine provinces, attend the Academy without tuition or boarding fees. By 2011, the Leadership Academy will accommodate pupils enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

### About the Faculty

Currently, the Leadership Academy employs more than 30 educators, including award-winning professionals from throughout South Africa, who are committed to using innovative teaching techniques and to maximizing the abundant resources and state-of-the-art technology that form part of the Leadership Academy's educational environment.

### About the Foundation

The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation provides funding for girls' education and supports the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls - South Africa, a project of this Foundation.

### For More Information

Please visit: [www.OprahWinfreyLeadershipAcademy.org](http://www.OprahWinfreyLeadershipAcademy.org)