



Gloria J. Davis
Woman of the Year - Second District

Los Angeles, The *Girls Club of Los Angeles* (GCLA) is proud to announce their Executive Director, Gloria J. Davis has been selected the Woman of the Year for Second District by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. She will be honored at the **21st Annual Women of the Year Luncheon** on Monday, March 13, 2006 starting at 11:30 am at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Ms. Davis' nomination was submitted to the Los Angeles County Commission on Women by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke.

This event recognizes women who have worked to bring about social and economic change, have served as outstanding role models for women and, have worked on behalf of women's issues and demonstrated outstanding performance within their professions to further advocate women's rights.

Gloria has been affiliated with GCLA since 1989 and has served in various capacities including Board member to Board President. As Executive Director, she oversees an array of programs exemplifying the GCLA mission "to enrich the lives of children, youth and families in a personalized, high quality learning environment which contributes to self-sufficient, stable and productive lives."

Gloria is a native of Boligee, Alabama. She received an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Talladega College in 1978. Gloria relocated to Los Angeles, California in 1979 along with her one-year old daughter, Keisha.

In 1992, Gloria returned to school to earn a masters degree in Counseling Psychology from National University in San Diego. Even with a teen daughter and a 40-50 hour work week, Gloria graduated with honors.

Gloria has a passion for early childhood education and feels that we can make a greater impact with young children and their families. She is a Mentor with the California Early Childhood Mentoring Program at Southwest College, West Los Angeles College and, Trade Technical College. She facilitates the Director Seminar Monthly Meetings at Los Angeles Southwest College with 40-50 local center directors and owners of family child care homes.

Gloria has mentored over 20 directors in South Los Angeles and throughout the state of California. Quality early education has been one of her main focuses. In October 2004, she led a self-study project that demonstrated compliance with nationally-recognized criteria for high quality early childhood programs at the GCLA Faith Children's Center. The Center received accreditation status by the National Academy of Early Childhood programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Gloria also has a passion for youth development issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse and violence prevention. She co-authored Project LEAD, a youth development initiative that promotes positive, healthy lifestyles and, encourages responsible decision-making for 9th graders at Fremont and Washington High School.

Gloria is an active community leader. She has served as Chair for the Women's Tobacco Coalition for five years and developed anti-tobacco programs for children, youth and women. She is a member of the California Child Development Administrators Association, National Association for the Education of Young Child and, South Central Child Care Consortium. In addition, she finds time to volunteer with several other organizations including the Real Man Cook Foundation and Consolidated Realist Board and, the Los Angeles Chapter of Alabama Greene County Social and Community Club. She also serves as the Chairperson on the Advisory Board of Pepperdine University Foster Grandparents Program.

To bring some balance to her busy lifestyle, Gloria is an avid computer enthusiast, loves walking, running, traveling and reading and spending time with her daughter, Keisha.

In 2006, Gloria is looking forward to developing new programs to improve the health and nutrition in the African American and Latino Community.

"This award was an unexpected surprise. I appreciate the generosity of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women for bestowing on me this prestigious honor. I am excited about the opportunity to represent women in the Second District. I realize that there are many women that are just as deserving of this honor as I. This honor helps strengthen my enthusiasm and conviction for the work I do with children, youth, women and families," said **Gloria J. Davis, Executive Director of GCLA**. "I am grateful for this wonderful vote of confidence in my work!"

GCLA is a non-profit agency that focuses on the needs of underprivileged and at-risk youth between the ages 2 and 21 years old and community outreach programs. ***The GCLA mission is to enrich the lives of children, youth, and families in a personalized high quality learning environment that contributes to self-sufficient, stable and productive lives.***

GCLA is located 2057 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90047. For information, call Sonya Vasquez, Program Director (323) 754-2122 x14 or visit us at www.Girlsclubla.org.