



Transformative Giving

CELEBRATING WOMEN LEADERS IN CASTILLEJA'S HEAD'S CIRCLE

In September, our Head's Circle gathering honored donors who give annually at a transformative level. Their support of all programs at Castilleja fundamentally changes the student experience. This year, three women leaders within our own community spoke about the role education and mentorship have played in their own lives while they reflected on why supporting Castilleja's mission is important to them.

Lori Goler P'21 '25, Head of People at Facebook, shared that her own experience at a girls' school similar to Castilleja helped her understand her full potential from an early age, which is why she sought out Castilleja for her own daughters when she moved to the Bay Area. From her foundation in a girls' school setting, she understood the value of gaining confidence in her own ability to learn new skills and the importance of supportive relationships, especially with other strong women, throughout her life.

One of those relationships began in high school at a summer program when Lori met **Aileen Lee P'24**, another member of our community who spoke that night. Aileen—the founder of venture capital firm Cowboy Ventures and All Raise, an organization that accelerates the success of female founders and funders—went to a coeducational public high school and remembered being impressed by Lori's confidence. In her own life, she also recognizes the importance of having a teacher who really believes in you. Her grandfather arrived as an immigrant and did not speak English, but one teacher took him aside and helped him after school, which changed his life, allowing him to offer new opportunities for his children. As time passed, this opened more opportunities for Aileen, highlighting that the connections students make with faculty stretch far beyond the time they spend together in the classroom.

Despite busy schedules, both Lori and Aileen have served on the Board at Castilleja, and they were joined at the Head's Circle event by current Board Chair, **Mary Speiser P'20 '22**, who through her work on the strategic planning process, the Master Plan, and the Capital Campaign, is helping to prepare the school for the next 200 years. Mary shared that one experience she had in high school, a youth ambassador trip to the Soviet Union, forever changed the trajectory of her life, leading her to study Russian and ultimately become an intelligence analyst for the CIA. Throughout her time on the Board, Mary has always worked to keep the mission at the center of all conversations about the present and the future of Castilleja, understanding that the world needs women leaders with ambition, imagination, and courage now more than ever.



WOMEN LEADING

Lori Goler P'21 '25, Aileen Lee P'24,
and Mary Speiser P'20 '22