

**Girls Global Academy
Board Candidate Form Responses**

Candidate Name: Rachel Charles

Preferred Pronouns: she/her

State/Territory of Residence: DC

Nominating Member: Karen Venable-Croft

In 500 words or less please tell us a little bit about yourself. Respond in any way you choose, including some professional history, general biography, or even just personal reflections.

Originally from California, I've lived several places around the Southwest, including the Navajo Nation, of which my husband and 3 children are tribal members. I've lived in Washington DC since 2015 and have navigated numerous DC charter schools experiencing the pros and cons of each one. I've seen one child through high school and college, and my current GGA student will be my second. Both of these students are high achieving and have been on some non-traditional paths in terms of their course credits, and we've had to proactively seek out creative solutions to keep them engaged in their schooling when the traditional pathways did not engage them. I've appreciated GGA's partnership in understanding the needs of our student and finding creative solutions to meet both her graduation requirements and engaging courses. Professionally, I am currently a Business Analyst for a local financial advisory firm. I am skilled in strategizing business objectives in finding practical solutions and efficient processes. I participate and guide many operational initiatives. I am skilled in systems administration and data analysis.

In 500 words or less please tell us why you would like to join the governing board of Girls Global Academy. Please also tell us what you think you will contribute and/or any particular things you would like to do as a trustee of the school.

I would like to join the Governing Board at GGA because I have a current GGA student in the 11th grade. I have wanted to find a way to be involved in the school, and this opportunity to participate on the board seems like a good fit with the skills that I have. I'm happy to contribute my business skills of strategy, problem solving, operations, finance, and data analysis wherever it's most needed. Because of my experience and perspective navigating 2 students to remain engaged in high school, the academics committee could be an intriguing place to participate.