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For Immediate Release

#SheShouldRun: Mikva Youth Connect with Chicago's Women in Politics

Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti to give opening remarks at luncheon hosted by Mikva Challenge

CHICAGO, IL, April 9, 2015 – In an effort to encourage young women to think about a career in politics, Mikva Challenge will host an intimate lunch with Chicago women who've been involved in politics professionally (including several sitting aldermen, state reps, recent candidates, etc.) and young women from high schools all across the city.

While women make up slightly over 50% of the American populace, the [number of women officeholders](#) in Congress and state legislatures across the nation is still below 25%, with minority representation being even less. Less than 1/3 of Chicago's own City Council seats are held by women. Given [recent research](#) that indicates that this gender gap in political ambition starts as early as 18, this luncheon aims to introduce Mikva's young women to women who have run for and/or held public office, thereby encouraging them to consider a career in politics.

In addition to sharing one-on-one conversations with adult leaders about their struggles and successes in the public arena, youth leaders will also learn about the existing gender gap and consider action steps they can take to reduce it.

"We so rarely hear of women in power, let alone meet them, so I'm really excited for the event tomorrow. Can't wait to draw some inspiration from them," said Xiao Lin Mei, youth participant from Jones College Prep.

WHEN: **Friday, April 10th – 10:30am to 1:30pm** (*Adult leaders: 11:45am – 1:00pm*)

WHERE: **Mikva Challenge, 332 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 400, Chicago IL, 60604**

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Mikva Challenge develops youth to be informed, empowered, and active citizens and community leaders. We do this by engaging youth in action civics, an authentic and transformative learning process built on youth voice and youth expertise.