

GIRLFRIENDS

Board of Directors

NAME	BOARD POSITION	PROFESSION
Kristi Heicke	President	Founder of Girlfriends
Melissa Revuelta	Senior Vice President	High School Teacher

Cabrillo High School is an urban comprehensive high school serving almost 4000 Long Beach students. This is Melissa's seventh year as an educator at Cabrillo. Melissa spent 3 year as a science/AVID teacher and 3 years as the site coordinator of a federal grant entitled GEAR UP which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. In those 3 years she developed programs and activities that helped establish and promote a college going culture at Cabrillo. She is currently inspiring students to become future scientists as she has entered her 4th year as an earth science teacher.

Melissa received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from UCLA. She completed a multiple subject credential program at National University and furthered her education by earning a Masters in Cross-Cultural Education with a Specialization in Curriculum.

Melissa is passionate about the success and advancement of all students but she has a very special place in her heart for girls. "In our world women still battle with many injustices. We are very lucky to have been born in a country that values women. However there is still much to be done to invoke a true sense of self worth and love into each and every young lady and I am proud to be part of an organization that is doing just that."

Christina Holliday	Treasurer	CPA/Accountant
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Christina Holliday is Chief Financial Officer for Lytle Development Company and its affiliated entities.

Christina brings 17+ years of professional finance and accounting experience in a range of industries, primarily concentrated in real estate. She began her public accounting career at Arthur Andersen where she was a member of the real estate audit, accounting, and consulting groups, and she later served as a Director for Wealth and Tax Advisory Services, Inc., in the Private Accounting Solutions group demonstrating expertise in developing accounting records for small businesses, trusts, and foundations.

She is a club and board member for the Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary club where she has been serving as treasurer for the past 7 years for the club and Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Foundation.

Christina is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in California and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and California Society of Certified Public Accountants. She double majored and graduated from the University of San Diego with a B.S. in accounting and psychology.

Kristen Major

Operation Manager

Business Liaison

Kristen Major, a Business Liaison for the Youth Opportunity Center with the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, was born and raised in Southern California.

After graduating with honors from California State University Long Beach, with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology, Kristen began her career working for Long Beach Family Services as a facilitator for Drug Prevention Programs and taught Self-Esteem Awareness and Peer Counseling to youth 11-17 years old.

While working in the community and with the local youth of Greater Long Beach, she gained invaluable communication, interpersonal and human resource skills. After a career change into the Corporate Recruiting field, Kristen excelled in the Human Resource field while performing various recruiting functions for Fortune 500 companies for the next 10 years.

Still working as a Corporate Recruiter, Kristen continued to be an active volunteer in her community. While volunteering along side youth, Kristen noticed that there was a great need to assist youth with their transition into the world-of-work, and so she decided to return to working fulltime with local youth to help prepare them for the world-of-work by using her valuable experience she gained as a recruiter in the private sector.

Kristen is currently enjoying her role working with youth, which allows her to help guide, teach and mentor youth with their life skills and career goals by providing career and college counseling as well as work-readiness training.

Kristen continues to be an active member in her community; she is a member of the Greater Long Beach Directors of Volunteers and plays a lead role on the committee for the Annual Volunteer Village. She is also a past member of The Junior League of Long Beach.

Ellen Bell

Secretary

Executive Assistant

Previously worked in administration with a non-profit for two years. Event planning for organizations such as United Way, Easter Seals and Big Sisters.

Jemie Saekoo

Advisory Committee

Suja Lowenthal – Councilwoman for the City of Long Beach

Lowenthal was re-elected to the Long Beach City Council after serving the remaining two years of former Councilmember Dan Baker's term. She represented the Third District on the Long Beach Unified School District's Board of Education from 2001-06. During her tenure as board president in 2003-04, the district was recognized as the best urban school district in the nation by the Broad Foundation.

Previously, Lowenthal coordinated the Domestic Violence Unit for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, providing education and training to thousands of students and officials in Los Angeles schools, city agencies, community organizations and law enforcement divisions. In 1993, Lowenthal joined the city of Los Angeles' Dept. of Aging, where she coordinated the Meals-on-Wheels program, prepared the departmental budget and administered grant dollars.

Lowenthal has been active in several local community organizations, including the Long Beach Affordable Housing Commission, YMCA of Long Beach Area Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Council, Long Beach Downtown Development Task Force, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Aquarium of the Pacific Watershed Curriculum Steering Committee, Lambda Long Beach, Long Beach Human Relations Project and the National Conference for Community and Justice.

She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from University of California at Los Angeles, a master's degree in business administration from California State University, Los Angeles and a doctorate in policy, planning and development from the University of Southern California.

