

## **Blessing Osazuwa - Lower Merion High School**

### **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Blessing Osazuwa is a senior at Lower Merion High School, where she serves as the Co-head of the Lower Merion School District's Girls Leadership Council. In that capacity, she pushed the GLC to confront and address the unique issues facing women of color, and the ways in which women of color experience gender inequality differently. She developed a series of workshops called "Conversations with Girls of Color" at her own high school, which has been expanded to the other high school in the District. The workshops are designed to encourage discussion about race and give an opportunity for students to express their feelings about changes the school can make to better support minority students.

Blessing has been a student voice in the school district's strategic planning process and serves as the sole student representative on the district's Committee to Address Race In Education (CARE). CARE has led a multi-year effort to address the achievement gap within the district. She has contributed several articles to her school paper, as well as on her own blog, related especially to the intersectionality of race and gender. She approached the President of the School Board to secure funding to bring in guest speakers to address racial issues, which has led to discussions regarding potential further educational opportunities for district employees.

Her sponsor describes her as "an extraordinary young woman – brave, confident, caring and driven." "Her work has been focused, goal-oriented and highly productive. She has changed the narrative in our school community – particularly within the student community – from one of occasional dialogue to informed, meaningful action."