



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, 5th District

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Supervisors Urge Young Women of Color to Pursue STEM Careers

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is expected to adopt a measure Thursday that encourages girls and young women of color to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers and asks the County's Office of African American Affairs to direct a portion of its financial resources towards fostering entrepreneurship for women of color.

Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson authored the [resolution](#), and released this statement:

"Despite the fact that women of color start many of our nation's small businesses, creating jobs and revenue, Black women have access to less capital and investment in their businesses.

"Women of color also make less than their white counterparts in general and experience higher rates of poverty.

"We must do more to address the economic disparities experienced by Black women.

"The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity. Young Black women in Milwaukee deserve the opportunity to succeed in high paying careers and as entrepreneurs, and they need financial resources to help them accomplish their goals.

"As a Black woman in Milwaukee County, I have had to circumvent many obstacles to accomplish my goals, but it was quality public education and access to social programs that empowered me to succeed.

"High school suspension rates for Black girls in Wisconsin are among the highest in the nation. Black girls are often discouraged from pursuing careers as entrepreneurs, or in high-wage, high demand, and non-traditional jobs such as the skilled trades or in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. We can address this problem if we take targeted action to provide young women of color with more opportunities to succeed.

"By partnering with the Office of African American Affairs, I hope to stimulate more robust and strategic opportunities for women of color by providing funding for small business development, by encouraging education in financial literacy and by encouraging young women of color to pursue careers in the STEM fields, which employ workers at statistically higher wages."

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