

## **Shaun Robinson**President and Founder









## May is here!

I love this time of year because it's the start of the warmer weather, the flowers are blooming (along with my allergies!) and we can finally start entertaining outdoors again! This time of year always lifts my mood.

As I work at my desk, I'm watching the Investiture Ceremony of the new (and only the 11th) President of my alma mater, Spelman College in Atlanta - Dr. Helene Gayle. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Gayle recently. She is an MD, MPH, Scholar, HIV and public health researcher, humanitarian and champion of the rights of women and girls worldwide. She is incredible! This celebration brought together past presidents of Spelman, a host of dignitaries, Spelman alum and friends and supporters of the college.

During Dr. Gayle's acceptance speech, she talked about her life as a young girl and how her parents stressed the importance of hard work and education. She remembered the mentors she had along the way that helped her have the confidence she needed to take on life's challenges and prepare her for an extraordinary career.

Dr. Gayle's words really made me think about the mission we have at the S.H.A.U.N. Foundation for Girls and the importance of choosing the right partners (our support system) that are doing life-changing work to improve the lives of underserved and underrepresented girls and young women.

This month, we are spotlighting an amazing nonprofit called Confident S.O.L.E. We chose them as our new partner and grantee because of their mission to equip middle and high school girls with the tools they need to become confident individuals and achieve academically and in their community. Girls learn self-esteem building, focus on public speaking and get college and career readiness training among a host of other important lessons.

Our grant to Confident S.O.L.E. will purchase equipment, software, supplies and more to build a Business Incubator Room that will be a space for girls to complete school work, create projects and learn to become entrepreneurs.

Helping girls every step of the way in their development will help create the leaders of the future. And, who knows? One day, we may be listening to an acceptance speech by one of these young ladies being a role model for other girls!

Find out more about Confident S.O.L.E. in our Partner Spotlight!

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