

# Erica Lofton, CEO

*Singer/Songwriter*

@EricaloftonYS

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Erica L. Lofton is the 15 y.o. founder and CEO of Girls in Action, Inc., a charity that promotes self-esteem and leadership for girls. Miss Lofton is also the founder of Girlz in Action, LLC, the affiliate of her charity that was formerly organized in order to advance a more structured curriculum to girls in schools and other agencies servicing the population of girls between the ages of 8-12. Miss Lofton also does workshops and speaking engagements that are aligned with the missions of her work with girls.

After the shooting of a member of her organization, Miss Lofton spoke before the Milwaukee Common Council to have May named as violence prevention month. She was successful in her efforts along with other caring citizens, and shortly after, she went to work holding a mock common council for the girls of her organization. What came out of that was a violence prevention campaign that gained notoriety from Washington and in September of 2015, Miss Lofton was invited to the White House to receive the Champion of Change Award. While in Washington, she met and introduced Mr. Vice President Joe Biden and shortly after, she received a personal letter from President Barack Obama thanking her for her efforts.

Miss Lofton is also a talented singer/songwriter who uses her talents to support her charity. She's been singing since before she learned to talk, and in 2014 Erica composed a song inspired by the death of Trayvon Martin called "No Time Left" which she has been performing in venues across Milwaukee.

Miss Lofton attends University School of Milwaukee where she serves as Freshman Class Representative. Miss Lofton hopes to one day attend Stanford University and pursue a career in Forensic Psychology or Law.

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**Education**

University School of Milwaukee  
2100 W Fairy Chasm Road  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
Grade: 9<sup>th</sup>  
GPA: 3.09

Milwaukee College Prep  
2449 North 36th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
Grade: 4th-8<sup>th</sup>

Messmer Prep  
3027 North Fratney Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
Grade: K4-4<sup>th</sup>

Magellan Day School, EPL  
The Wisconsin Center for Gifted Learners  
217 West Dunwood Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
Grade: K3

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## **Experience**

### **Freshman Class Representative**

University School of Milwaukee

September 2015 – Present (7 months)

As representative, Miss Lofton works on fun activities that will promote the culture and spirit of the Freshman class. She was elected by a body of her Freshman peers and by Freshman teachers.

### **CEO**

Girlz in Action, LLC

October 2014 – Present (1 year 6 months) Greater Milwaukee Area

Girlz in Action, LLC was formerly organized in order to advance a more structured leadership curriculum to girls in schools and other agencies servicing the population. In the first year of operations, the LLC was able to successfully double its earning potential.

### **Founder & CEO**

Girls in Action, Inc.

September 2008 – Present (7 years 7 months) Greater Milwaukee Area

Erica's work has been recognized in by the White House for her charity, Girls in Action, Inc. In the summer of 2008, a 7 year old little girl named Erica Lofton had the idea of starting a girls group. Being an only child, Erica developed an extensively broad imagination at a very young age and thus developed her own dynamic ideas and opinions. These ideas included her views of the world and thoughts of what she wanted to do to positively impact the world. Eager to share her ideas with other girls, Erica got permission and support from her mother to begin a group for girls and in September of 2008, the Sole Proprietorship of Girls in Action was born. In 2009, Girls in Action, Inc. was formalized as a non-stock organization and is now a non- profit organization that advances the mission of using teamwork to promote manners, self-esteem, social & communication skills all for the purpose of helping girls realize their leadership potential at an early age.

### **Youth Soloist**

Erica Lofton, Youth Soloist

2001 – Present (15 years)

Singer, songwriter, producer, using singing to support the missions of her charity.

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## **Performances**

2010

- Performed for Rev. Al Sharpton on his radio show, New Years Day show
- Opening act at Messmer's Got Talent Showcase, Messmer High School, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed in a Kids on Broadway production under the direction of Kai Simone, Founder of Skai Performing Arts Academy, Juneau High School Auditorium, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed for National Jazz Artist, Nnenna Freelon at family picnic in Atlanta, GA

2012

- Performance request from Jam Sports Production at their 14th Annual Gridiron Celebrity Hoops Game at Butler University
- Featured guest performer BCDI-Milwaukee's 6th Annual Excellence in Community Service Celebration, Milwaukee WI
- Auditioned and performed in the Milwaukee's Got Talent singing competition, Delta Airline Center, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed the National Anthem at the Fresh Coast Classic at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
- Joined Jubilee Youth Ensemble (various performances) under the direction of Director Kenneth J. Daniels, Milwaukee, WI

2013

- Performed the National Anthem at the Fresh Coast Classic at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at the Junior Achievement Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame Banquet, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at the Sikh Temple for the vigil honoring the lives lost at the 2012 Sikh Temple shootings, Sikh Temple, Oak Creek, WI
- Performed for the opening ceremonies at the March on Milwaukee honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Victory Over Violence Park, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed opening ceremonies for event honoring the life of Nelson Mandela, African American Women's Center, Milwaukee, WI
- Performance request from the President and CEO of the Milwaukee Urban League for the Youth Recognition Ceremony, Milwaukee, WI

2014

- Performance for the Department of Corrections and their National Crime Victims' Rights Walk hosted by the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office – Office of Victim Witness, and the Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at Now We Praise Gospel Music Festival, Washington Park Pavilion, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed for Mario J. Brown, Girls in Action, Career Day Session, Clarke Street School, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed the National Anthem at Pepp Nation's 2013 Rugby Cup, Milwaukee County Parks
- Performed at V100's Sista' Strut Milwaukee, Estabrook Park, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at V100's Halleluiah for the Holidays, Mason Temple, Milwaukee, WI
- Performance request from the President and CEO of the Milwaukee Urban League for the Youth Recognition Ceremony, Milwaukee, WI

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## **Performances (con't)**

2015

- Performed and delivered a speech at the International Stop the Violence Prayer Walk, Friendship Progressive Baptist Church, Milwaukee Wisconsin
- Performed at the Milwaukee Urban Leagues National Achievers Induction Ceremony, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at the 1st Midway District Youth Explosion, St. Paul Church, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed at Gear Up Milwaukee Open Mic event for youth, City Church, Milwaukee, WI
- Delivered a speech at the 2015 Victory Over Violence Peace Rally and Resource Fair, MLK Elementary School, Milwaukee Wisconsin
- Performed at the 2015 Lead2Change 5th Anniversary Dream Big Awards at Manpower Group in Milwaukee
- Auditioned and Performed in the play Our Town by Thornton Wilder, University School of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed an original piece called "No Time Left" at the 2015 Black Friday Blowout at the Wisconsin Historical Society Museum, Milwaukee, WI
- Performed an original piece called "No Time Left" at the "Doing The Right Thing" Recognition Ceremony by the Milwaukee Urban League, Parklawn Assembly of God Church, Milwaukee, WI
- Performance request from the President and CEO of the Milwaukee Urban League for the Youth Recognition Ceremony, Milwaukee, WI

2016

- Feb-Auditioned for the Voice, Chicago, IL
- Produced a Valentine's Day singing showcase fundraiser to raise money for pageant expenses, Mayfair Mall, Wauwatosa, WI
- Competed in the 2016 Miss West Allis Outstanding Teen Beauty Pageant for the Miss America Organization. New Berlin West-Performing Arts Center, New Berlin, WI

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## **Keynotes & Presentations**

2015

- Featured youth speaker at the 2015 Step Into Your Purpose Women's Workshop, Sheraton Brown Deer, WI
- Keynote speaker at the 2015 Victory Over Violence Peace Rally and Resource Fair, MLK Elementary School, Milwaukee Wisconsin
- Presented before a group of licensed mental health counselors and counselors in training professionals during a Lunch & Learn Series at Amri Counseling Services
- Keynote youth Speaker at the 2015 Hip Hop Generation Youth Summit hosted by The Honorable Louis Farrakhan, at Fresh Start Family Services, Milwaukee, WI
- Featured youth speaker at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gwen T. Jackson Awards hosted by St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care at the Clinton Rose Center, Milwaukee, WI
- Presented an alumni speech before donors at the Milwaukee College Prep School Take a Stand, Raise a Glass event at Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery
- Presented at the 2015 First Responders Awards Banquet at Milwaukee City Hall

2016

- Presented at the 5th Annual Fit to a Tea Event by 29Eleven, Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, WI

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**Panel Discussions**

2015

- Paneeled at the Milwaukee Film Festival for an *IN FOCUS: YOUTH ACTIVISM IN MILWAUKEE* discussion, Milwaukee, WI
- Paneeled at Grace Fellowship Church for *AN INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION BRIDGING THE GAP* discussion, Milwaukee, WI
- Judged Center Stage Talent Show Fundraiser hosted by St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, Turner Hall, Milwaukee, WI

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## **Workshops**

2014

- Conducted a 20 week workshop for girl students at Clarke Street School for the Boys & Girls club, Milwaukee, WI

2015

- Conducted an 18 week Leadership Workshop for Milwaukee College Prep School-Lloyd Street Campus, Milwaukee, WI (Girls 8-12 y.o.)
- Conducted an 18 week Leadership Workshop for Milwaukee College Prep School-38<sup>th</sup> Street Campus, Milwaukee, WI (Girls 8-12 y.o.)
- Conducted a Self-esteem Workshop for West Care Wisconsin Face Forward Program at Harambee in Milwaukee, WI (teen girls)
- Conducted a Self-esteem Workshop for Sisters 4 Cure, Inc. Living Well Program at the Daniels-Mardak Boys & Girls Club, Milwaukee (teen girls)

2016

- Conducted a Creative Leadership Youth Workshop for Arts @ Large, Milwaukee, WI



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**Awards, Scholarships & Grants**

2009

- Recipient of the Kohl's Department Stores Kids Who Care Scholarship, Milwaukee, WI

2013

- Awarded the Cum Laude Award from Milwaukee College Prep School, Milwaukee, WI

2015

- Won 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1000.00 cash prize at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care Inc. Center Stage Act 2 Talent Show, Turner Hall, Milwaukee, WI.

2015

- Recipient of the Champions of Change Award and introduced Vice President Joe Biden at the White House, Washington, DC.

2015

- Awarded the Milwaukee College Prep High School Tuition 4 year scholarship to attend the University School of Milwaukee

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## Media

2013

- Featured spot on *Today's TMJ 4's Positively Milwaukee* hosted by Carole Meekins for singing career and positive contributions to the community

2015

- Featured in debut edition of *Industry Bosses Magazine* as a Future Industry Boss-  
<http://www.industrybosses.com/#!erica-lofton/c15f>
- *MKE Peace Project aims to hear youth voices on violence-*  
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/mke-peace-project-aims-to-hear-youth-voices-on-violence-b99495075z1-302669001.html>
- “Erica is setting an example:” Teen works to stop the violence, her efforts are being recognized-  
<http://fox6now.com/2015/05/31/erica-is-setting-an-example-14-year-old-girl-working-to-stop-the-violence-her-efforts-are-being-recognized/>
- *Girls In Action: MPS students recognized at White House for work with anti-violence organization-*  
<http://fox6now.com/2015/09/23/girls-in-action-mps-students-recognized-at-white-house-for-work-with-anti-violence-organization/>
- Hosted the Girls in Action, Inc. Daddy Daughter Purity Ball-Most Worship Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Milwaukee, WI –went viral with over 1.5M views-  
<https://www.facebook.com/Girls-in-Action-Inc-107603732657680/?ref=hl>
- *White House Recognizes Milwaukee Teen for her Efforts Promoting Non-violence*  
<http://www.cbs58.com/story/30103206/white-house-recognizes-milwaukee-teen-for-her-efforts->
- *Milwaukee girl, 14, honored at White House, earns Biden's praise-*  
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/milwaukee-girl-14-honored-at-white-house-earns-bidens-praise-b99581223z1-328545031.html>
- *Speaking out against the violence: One Milwaukee teen's story-*  
<http://www.cbs58.com/story/29201621/speaking-out-against-the-violence-one-milwaukee-teens-story>
- *Young Milwaukee girl becomes advocate for peace after friend is killed in shooting-*  
<http://www.cbs58.com/story/28152981/young-milwaukee-girl-becomes-advocate-for-peace-after-friend-is-killed-in-shooting#.VOZ8Nk8aD4U.facebook>
- “It’s a plague:” Common Council committee votes in favor of “Violence Prevention Month” in May-  
<http://fox6now.com/2015/02/19/its-a-plague-on-much-of-milwaukee-common-council-votes-to-stop-city-violence/>

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**References**

Natalie Cooper, Director  
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee  
1558 N. 6th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 267-8100

Ralph Hollmon, President & CEO  
The Milwaukee Urban League  
435 W. North Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Phone: (414) 374-5850

Sr. Edna Lonergan, OSF, Founder & President  
St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care  
2801 E. Morgan Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207