

I am so excited to have the opportunity to learn and grow with our Cohort as we all develop our initiatives.

I am already inspired by this group, and look forward to the year of personal and professional development that is ahead of us!

## Courtney Murdoch

McGill University

Girl Talk: Building our Future, Lachute, Quebec, Canada

Girl Talk tackles gaps in the education system that allow gendered brilliance bias to persist and aims to offset its negative impacts so that girls feel empowered in themselves and their abilities. Through increasing confidence and developing important life skills such as leadership, entrepreneurship, communication, and personal financial planning, girls will be equipped to build successful, fulfilling lives for themselves as they enter post-secondary life.

I grew up in my chosen community, and attended the high school where my initiative will take place. I have seen the unique barriers that girls from this community face, often impacted heavily by poverty or a lack of strong support networks. For many, this leads to a sense of disempowerment and being ill-equipped after high school which causes them to settle into a life that does not fulfil them. I feel a closeness with the girls from this community, and look forward to facilitating their development over the year.

