

January 21, 2026
Detroit, Michigan

College Students Named Founding Ambassadors of a New National Leadership Movement

Twelve emerging leaders from HBCUs, Big Ten universities, and public and private institutions across the country have been selected as the Founding 12 Ambassadors of the CGM Student Ambassador Network, a national leadership pipeline rooted in a Courageous Growth Mindset and focused on access, financial literacy, and purpose-driven leadership.

The CGM Student Ambassador Network is the heartbeat of the CGM Movement, designed to invest in students at a formative stage in their leadership journey—before decisions around money, identity, and opportunity become barriers rather than bridges. Selected through a values-based process, the “Founding 12” represent a range of academic disciplines, lived experiences, and leadership paths, together embodying a new standard for generational success.

“This movement was built with the next generation in mind,” said Lisa Howze, founder of the CGM Movement. “Now it’s about equipping young leaders and trusting them to carry the mission forward.”

Student ambassador Titus Lee, a sophomore at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, shared how the experience aligns directly with his academic focus:

“As an advertising major, storytelling is at the center of how I communicate ideas,” said Lee. “Through CGM, I’m applying those skills in real time—using visual storytelling to help shape how this movement is seen, understood, and shared.”

Over the coming weeks, each of the Founding 12 Ambassadors will be introduced individually, sharing their leadership journeys and the impact they are already beginning to make on their campuses and beyond.

About the CGM Movement

The Courageous Growth Mindset (CGM) Movement is a national initiative focused on developing resilient, purpose-driven leaders through early exposure, mentorship, and practical decision-making frameworks. The Movement was born from the success of *Candy Girl Mentality*, a nationally recognized book that has reached students, families, educators, and professionals across the country.

Since its publication, more than 4,000 copies are in circulation nationwide, with intentional distribution into schools, community programs, professional networks, and leadership spaces across 28 states and Washington, D.C. Building on this foundation, the CGM Movement now serves as a platform for scalable leadership—multiplying impact by equipping students who carry these lessons into their campuses, households, and communities.

About Lisa Howze

Lisa L. Howze is an award-winning author, speaker, and thought leader whose work sits at the intersection of business, policy, and higher education. She is the founder of the Courageous Growth Mindset Movement and the author of *Candy Girl Mentality*, a nationally recognized book that has reached students, families, educators, and professionals across the country.

A Certified Public Accountant by training, Lisa earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and completed graduate studies in finance at Walsh College. Her career spans business, government, and higher education, including service as a Michigan State Representative and as a university vice president, where her work focused on student growth, retention, and education affordability. In recognition of her public service and commitment to empowering the next generation, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Walsh College.

Lisa's work challenges students and institutions alike to think intentionally about leadership, opportunity, and long-term success—proving that when the right tools meet the right moment, generational change is possible.